

SUPERMAN

SUPERMAN

Post-



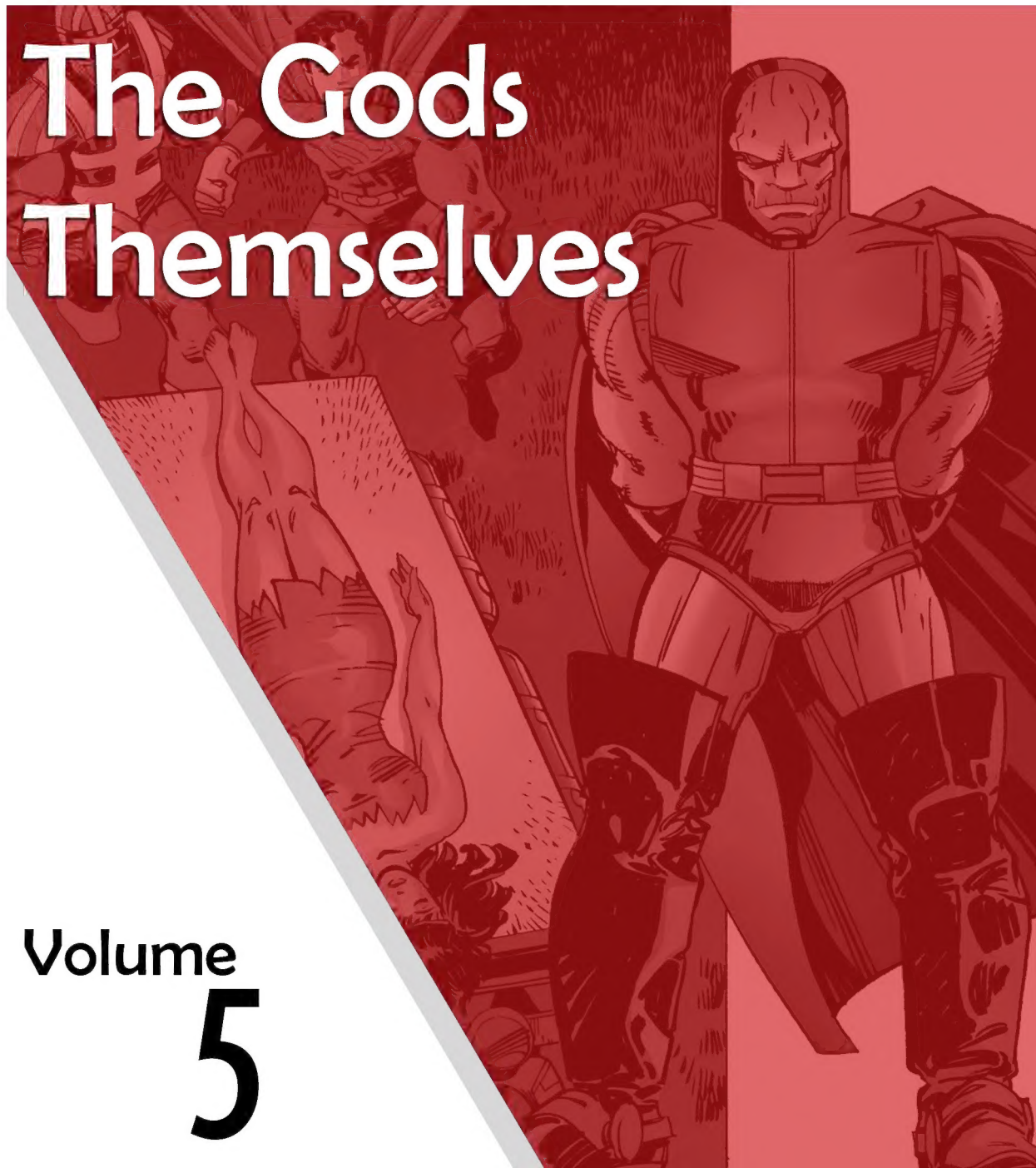
Post-**CRISIS**

The Gods Themselves

The Gods Themselves

Volume
5

5



DAILY PLANET GUEST COMMENTARY
by LOIS LANE

One changing face of
American life...

...and how Metropolis has
that face, too. (Along with
the mask it wears.)

I write of course,
about the proliferation
of champions across
the country.

Sentinels, defenders, vigilantes.
In times gone by, they were
known as mystery men. But now,
more and more, they have
a simpler, more dynamic name.

Superheroes.

And with the emergence of
the super powered hero,
so a villainous
counterpart followed.

Of course,
in parts of
the country this
was nothing
new...

...The spiteful
dance began
for some
cities a long
time ago.

...is now allegedly
protected by
the Dark Avenger,
Batman.

There were others too,
back in the war years,
but who among us cannot
admit these heroes seem
remote memories...more
myth than matter?

Gotham City,
for instance,
home of the
first Green
Lantern in
the 1940's.

Yet now...



...to battle villains who are more deadly and dangerous than any evildoer from a bygone era.



True, a few of the older champions have remained...



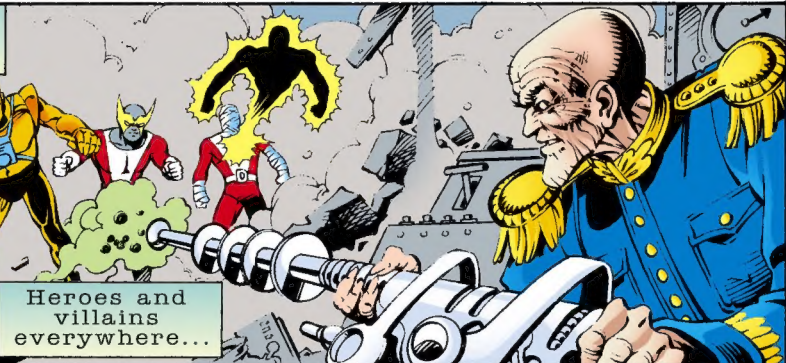
...fighting on, to keep their cities safe and their names alive.



But more and more, it's been the young and the new.

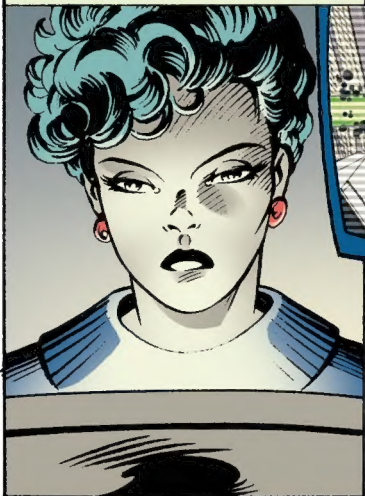


Heroes and villains everywhere...



...except Metropolis.

Throughout this recent time, our city has remained untroubled by the extreme change endemic within this nation and to a lesser extent the world.



Until lately...



...when a variety of dangerous, superpowered threats has brought our city, repeatedly, to the brink of destruction.

Though, luckily, we have our own hero...

...someone to combat these threats.



...Someone fast, strong, and
with abilities far beyond
those of mortal men.

GIVE IT UP,
PROFESSOR KILLGRAVE!
WHY DELAY
THE INEVITABLE?

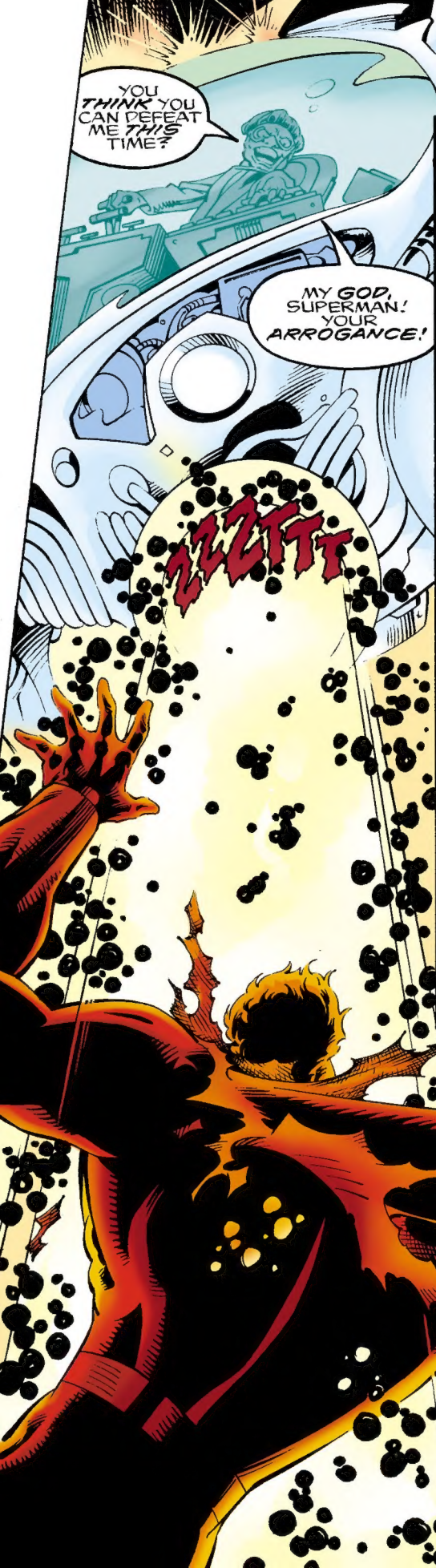
SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE PART 1

MADNESS and SCIENCE

JAMES ROBINSON • VAL SEMEIKS
WRITER • PENCILLER
PAUL NEARY • JANICE CHIANG
INKER • LETTERER
KEVIN SOMERS • MAUREEN MCTIGUE
COLORIST • ASSISTANT
JOEY CAVALIERI - EDITOR

COVER PAINTING BY GLEN ORBIK



YOU *THINK* YOU CAN DEFEAT ME *THIS* TIME?

MY GOD, SUPERMAN! YOUR *ARROGANCE!*

ZZZZTTT

DID YOU *THINK* I WOULDN'T USE EACH OF MY *PRIOR* DEFEATS BY YOU, TO *ANALYZE* YOUR POWERS AND FIGHTING TECHNIQUES?

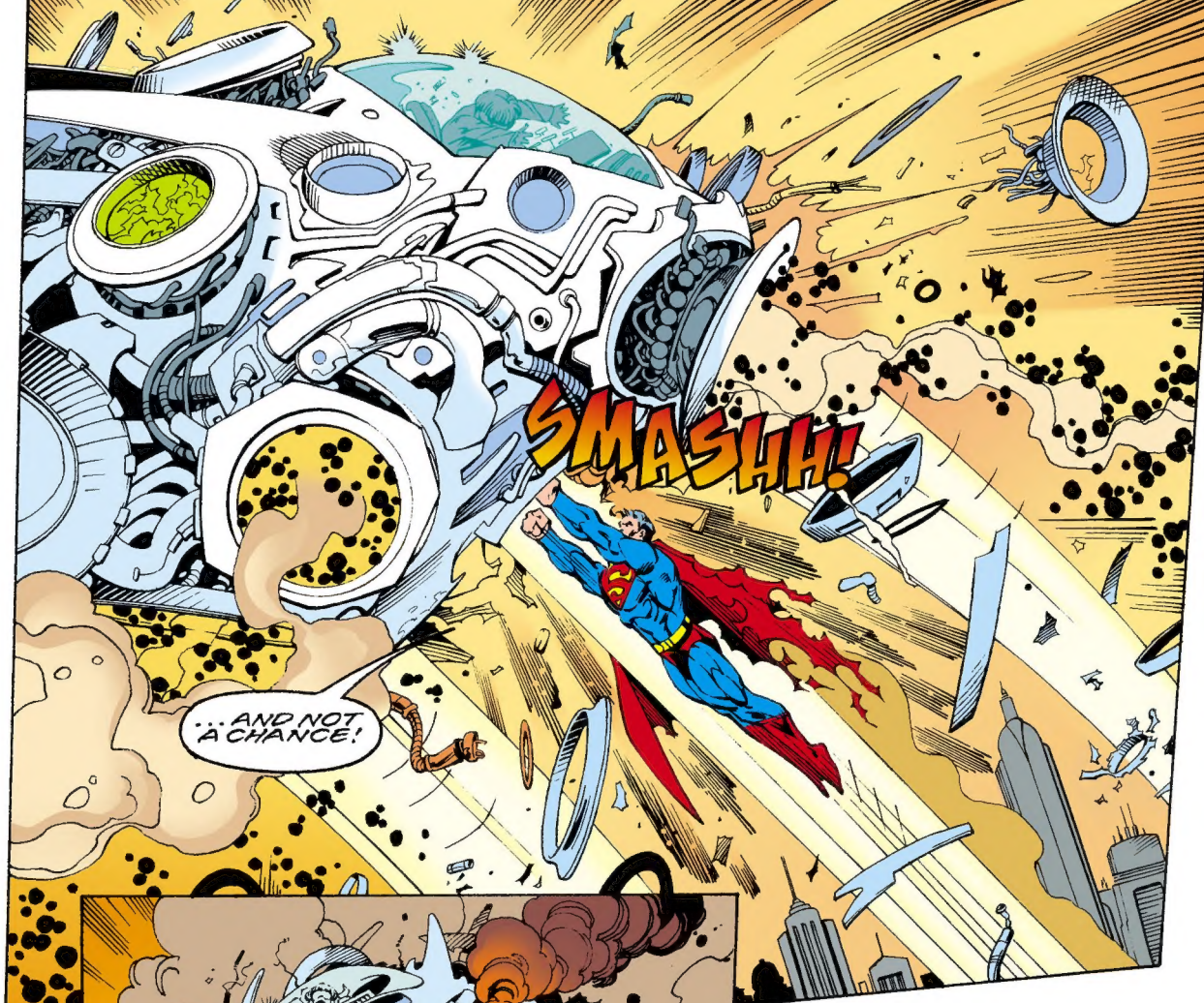
DID YOU *THINK* I *WOULDN'T* BUILD A DEVICE *BETTER* THAN THE LAST?

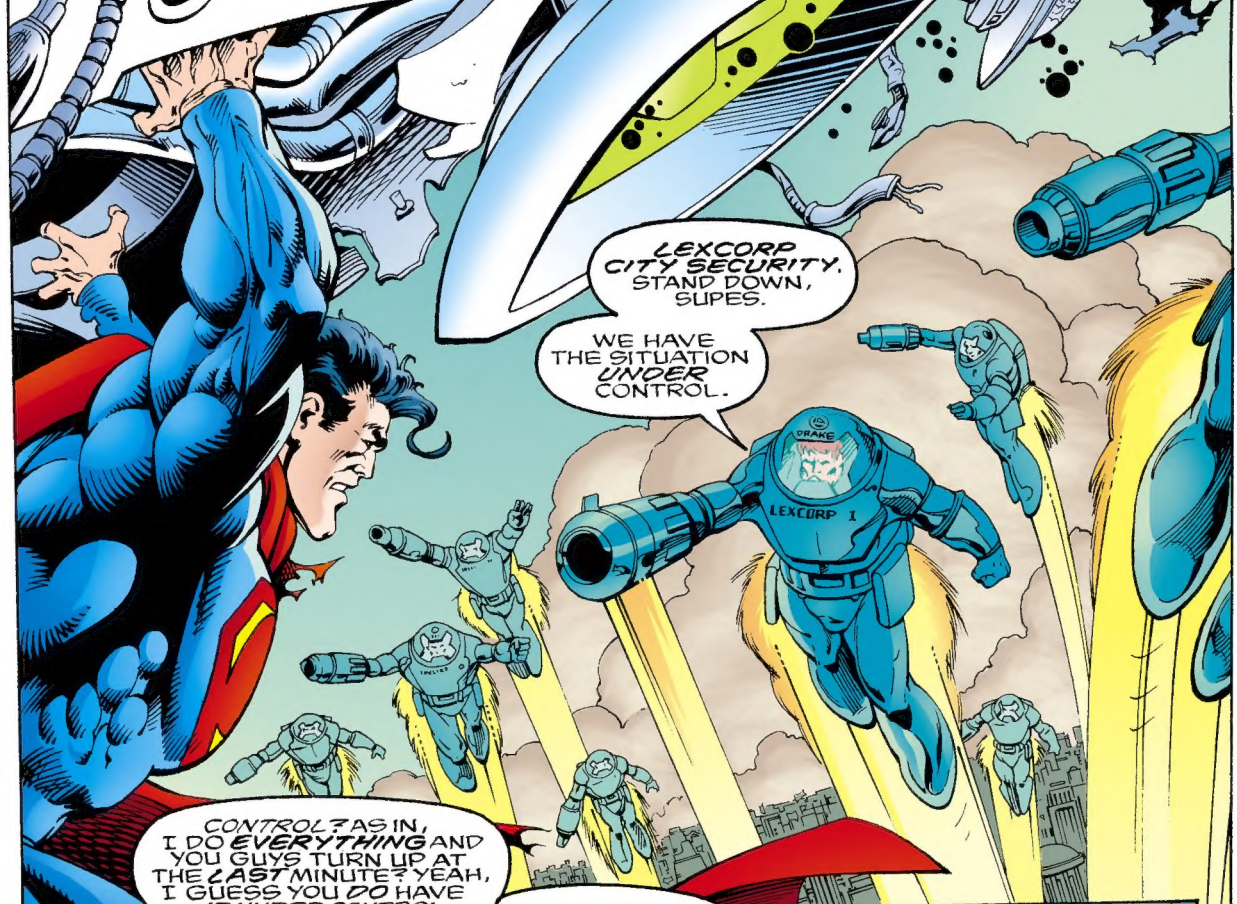
DID YOU *THINK* AFTER THE ENCOUNTERS WE *HAD*, I WOULDN'T CREATE SOMETHING CAPABLE OF *BEATING* YOU?

I'LL *TRY* TO ANSWER YOU IN *ORDER*, KILLGRAVE.

LET ME SEE... *ERR...*

MAYBE COULD BE...





LEXCORP
CITY SECURITY.
STAND DOWN,
SUPES.

WE HAVE
THE SITUATION
UNDER
CONTROL.

CONTROL? AS IN,
I DO **EVERYTHING** AND
YOU GUYS TURN UP AT
THE **LAST** MINUTE? YEAH,
I GUESS YOU *DO* HAVE
IT UNDER CONTROL.

IT **DOESN'T**
MATTER WHO
DID WHAT... **WE'RE**
THE LAW IN
THIS CITY.



THAT'S **FUNNY**.
I THOUGHT
THE COPS HAD THAT
DISTINCTION.

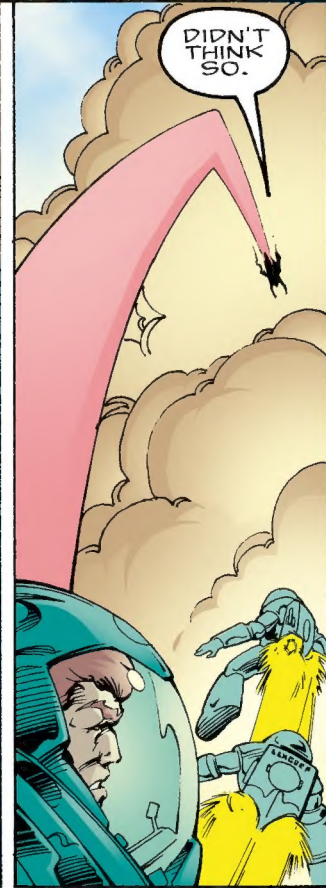
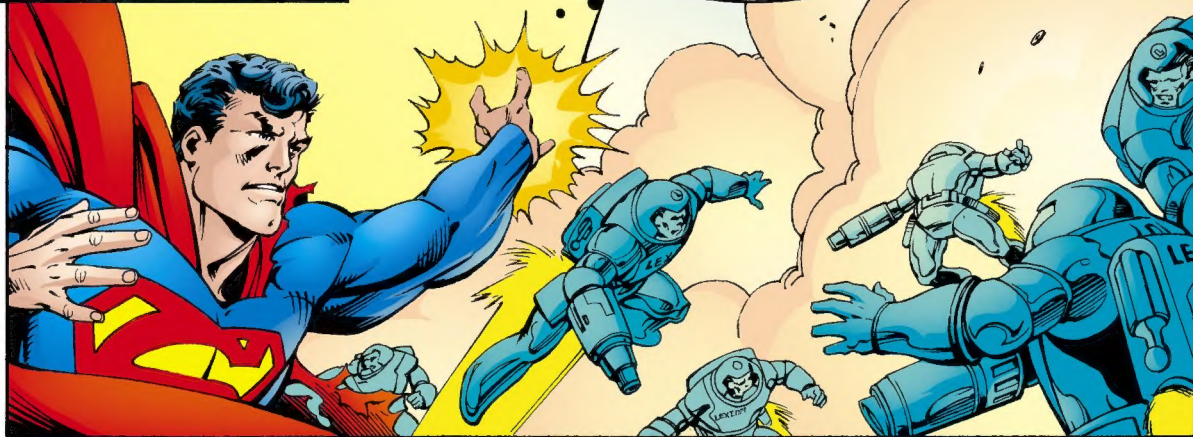
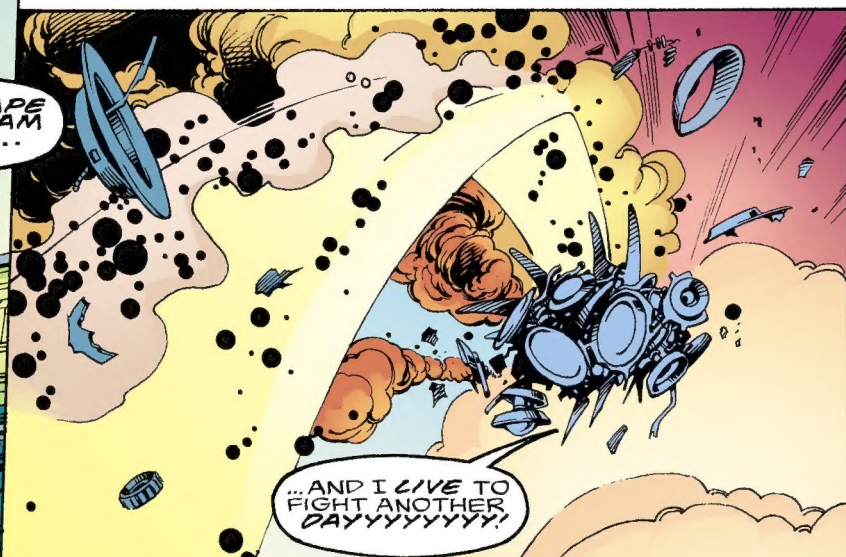


MR. LUTHOR PAYS
FOR THIS CITY'S COPS.
HE PAYS FOR **US**, TOO.
ME, I SEE THE LINES
BEGINNING TO **BLUR**.



AND I SEE
A **BUNCH**
OF--

**TURBO
BOOSTERS
ON!...**



-- SUPERMAN SAID
THE APPREHENSION OF
KILL GRAVE WAS DELAYED,
BUT REFUSED TO
SPECIFY THE REASON.

BUT LATE OR NOT,
IT'S ANOTHER VICTORY
FOR THE CITY THAT WE CAN
LAY FIRMLY AT THE FEET OF
SUPERMAN, METROPOLIS'S
PROTECTOR.

WILL YOU
TURN THAT
OFF?!

BUT,
LEXY...

AND IN
OUR CELEBRITY
GOSSIP
PORTION OF
THE NEWS
TONIGHT...

...ALICIA WALKER,
OUR GIRL ABOUT TOWN,
HAS "DISH" ON WHO ACTRESS
AND MUSIC DIVA
DOLORES WINTERS HAS BEEN
SPENDING HER DOWN
TIME WITH...

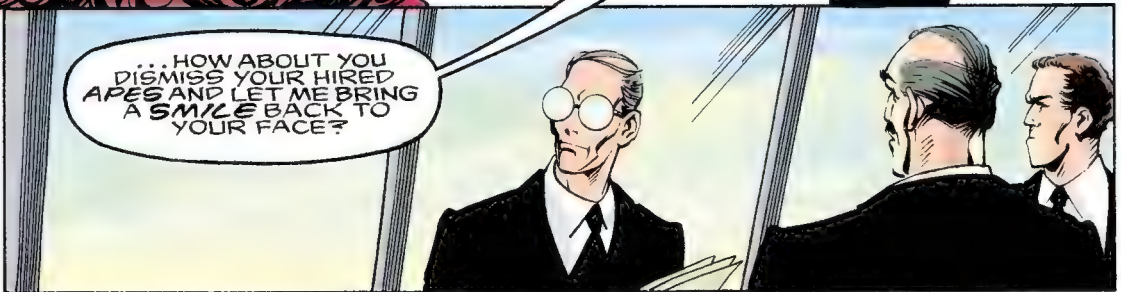
I SAID--

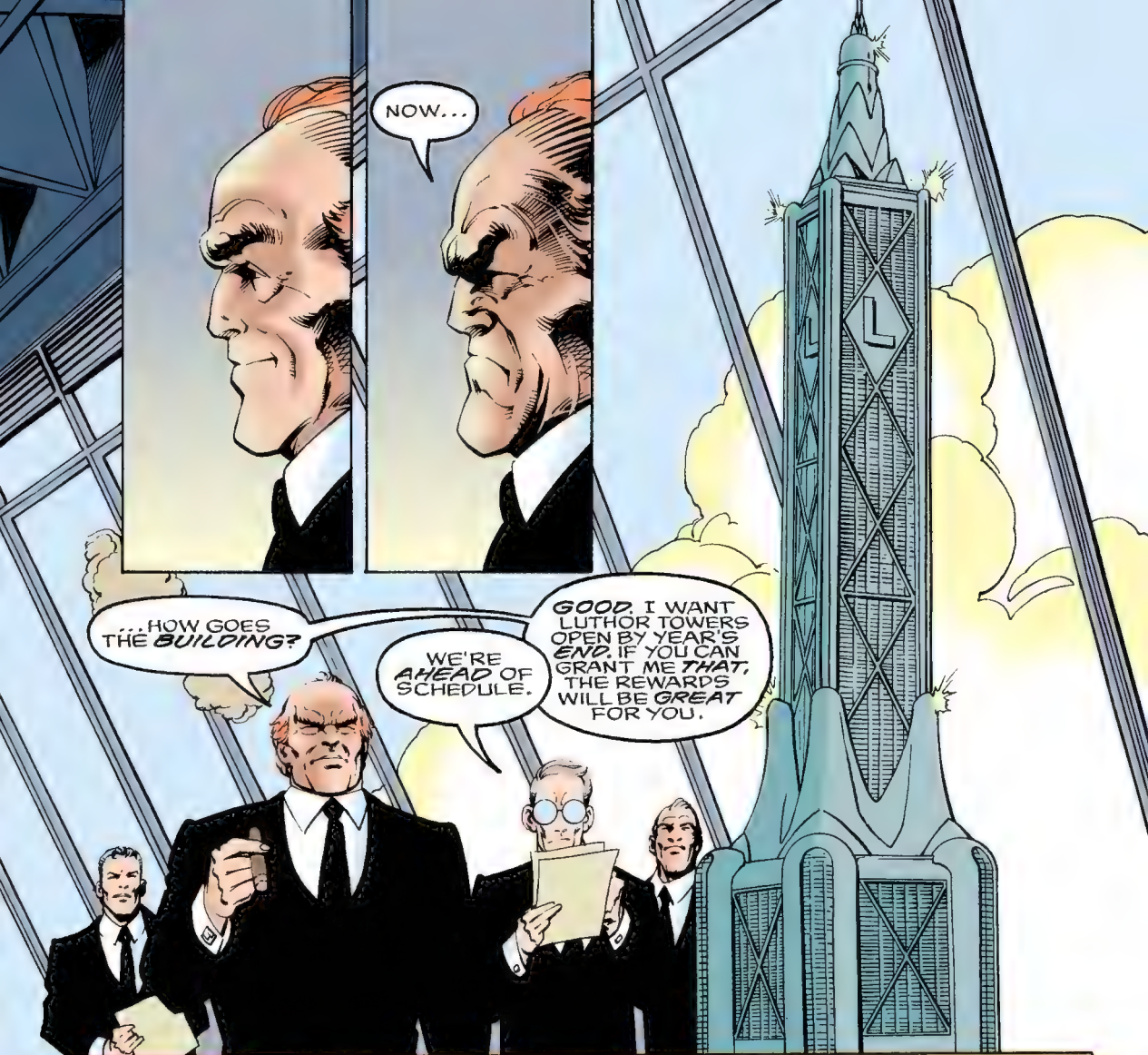
BUT LEX,
THEY'RE
ABOUT
TO TALK
ABOUT...

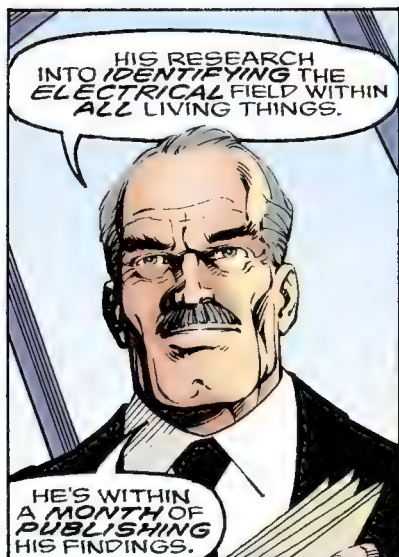
THAT'S
RIGHT...
NEWLY DIVORCED
DOLORES WINTERS HAS
FOUND SOLACE IN
THE ARMS OF METROPOLIS'S
OWN "SUPERMAN"
FINANCIER AND DEVELOPER
LEX LUTH--

THANKS,
GREG!

I SAID
TURN THAT
GARBAGE
OFF!







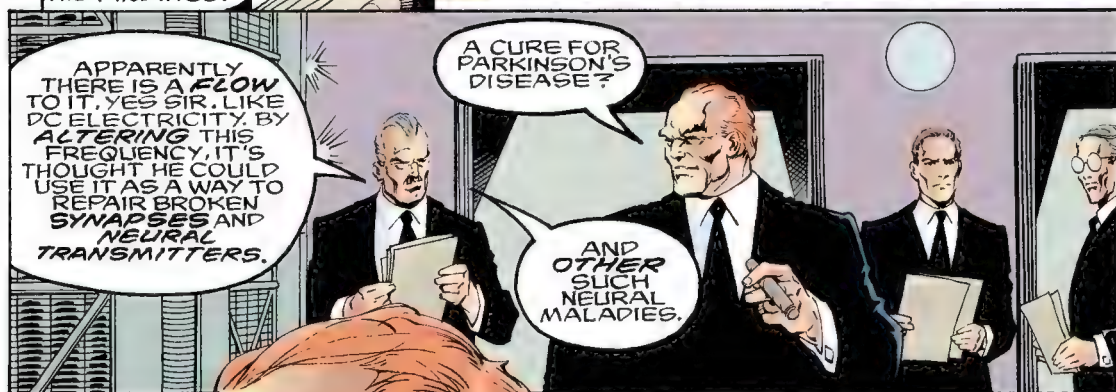
HIS RESEARCH
INTO IDENTIFYING THE
ELECTRICAL FIELD WITHIN
ALL LIVING THINGS.

HE'S WITHIN
A MONTH OF
PUBLISHING
HIS FINDINGS.



BY IDENTIFYING THE ELECTRICAL
FIELD, HE'S ABLE TO ISOLATE IT
IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BODY.
IT'S POSSIBLE HE'S ALSO DISCOVERED
A WAY TO ALTER THE FREQUENCY OF IT.

LIKE
A RADIO,
HEWITT?



APPARENTLY
THERE IS A FLOW
TO IT, YES SIR. LIKE
DC ELECTRICITY. BY
ALTERING THIS
FREQUENCY, IT'S
THOUGHT HE COULD
USE IT AS A WAY TO
REPAIR BROKEN
SYNAPSES AND
NEURAL
TRANSMITTERS.

A CURE FOR
PARKINSON'S
DISEASE?

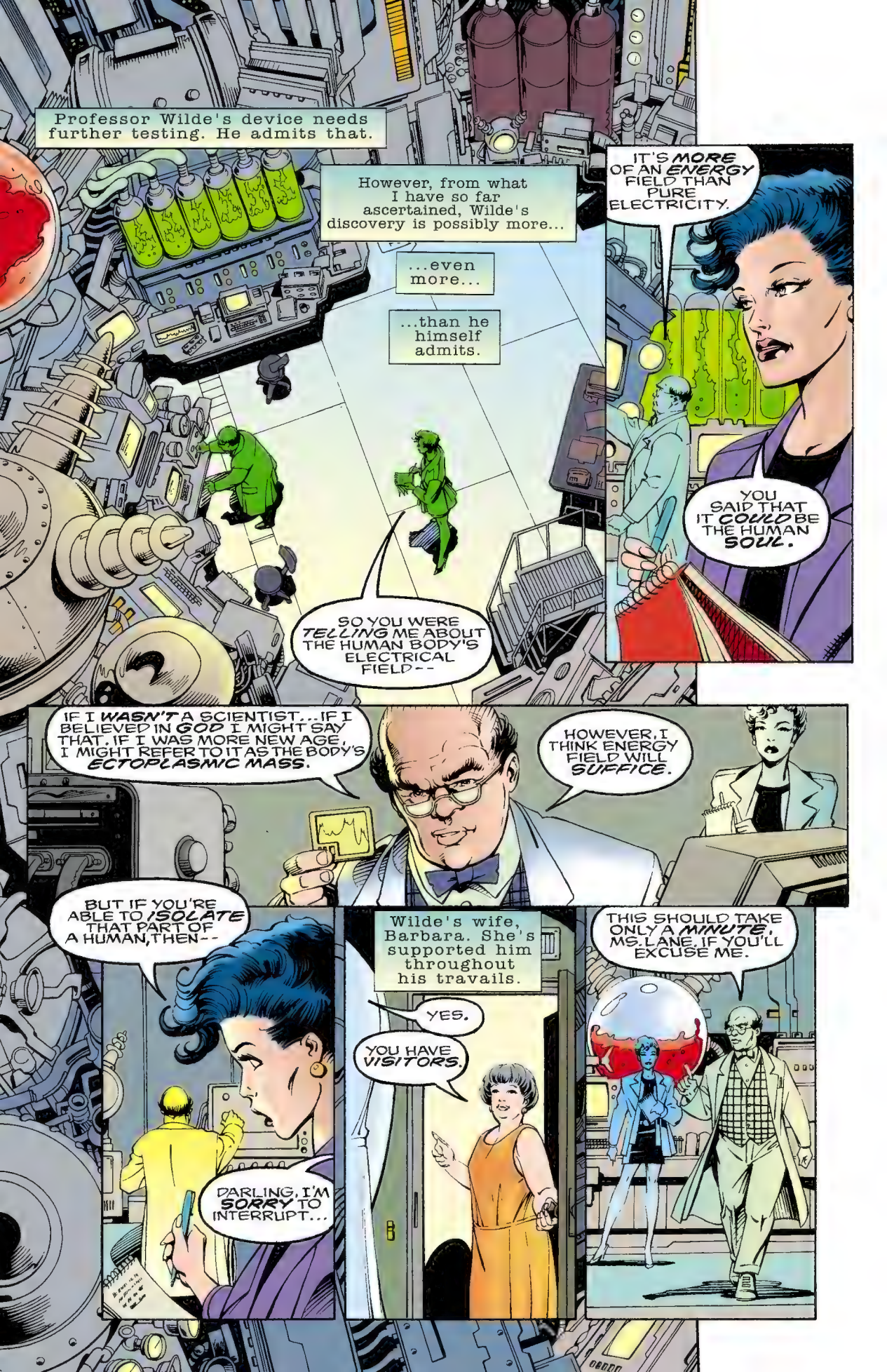
AND
OTHER
SUCH
NEURAL
MALADIES.

IT ISN'T THE CURE
FOR CANCER OR AIDS,
BUT IT COULD STILL BE
WORTH A FORTUNE.

THIS
WILDE
FELLOW...



...BUY
HIM!



Professor Wilde's device needs further testing. He admits that.

However, from what I have so far ascertained, Wilde's discovery is possibly more...

...even more...

...than he himself admits.

IT'S MORE OF AN *ENERGY* FIELD THAN PURE ELECTRICITY.

YOU SAID THAT IT *COULD* BE THE HUMAN *SOUL*.

SO YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY'S ELECTRICAL FIELD--

IF I WASN'T A SCIENTIST...IF I BELIEVED IN GOD I MIGHT SAY THAT. IF I WAS MORE NEW AGE, I MIGHT REFER TO IT AS THE BODY'S *ECTOPLASMIC MASS*.

HOWEVER, I THINK ENERGY FIELD WILL *SUFFICE*.

BUT IF YOU'RE ABLE TO *ISOLATE* THAT PART OF A HUMAN, THEN--

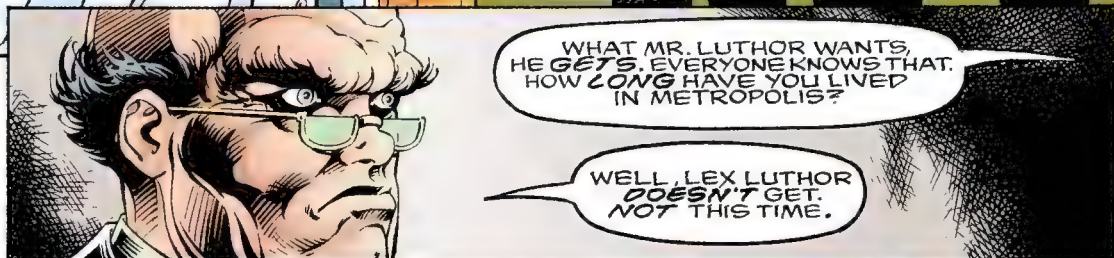
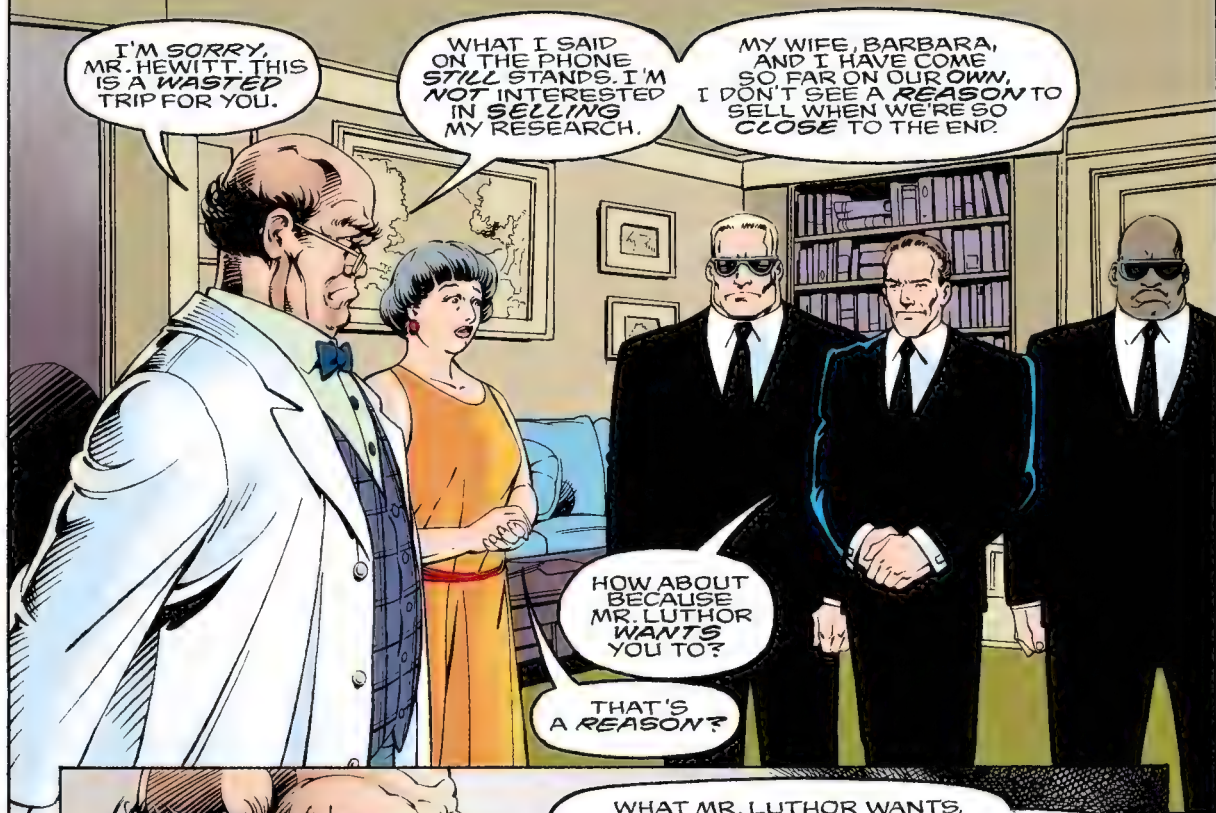
Wilde's wife, Barbara. She's supported him throughout his travails.

YES.

YOU HAVE VISITORS.

THIS SHOULD TAKE ONLY A *MINUTE*, MS. LANE. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

DARLING, I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT...





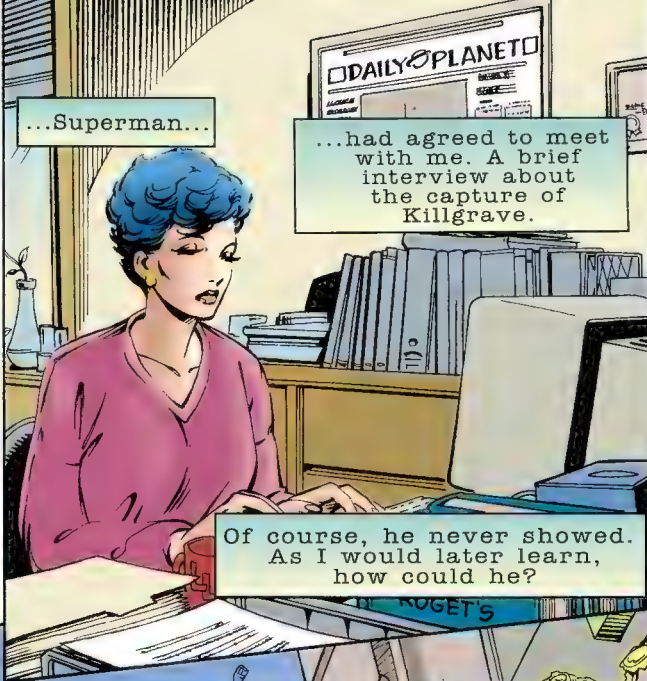
One of my stories
had just slammed
the door in my face...

...and the other story...
my ongoing
investigation...



...Superman...

...had agreed to meet
with me. A brief
interview about
the capture of
Killgrave.



Of course, he never showed.
As I would later learn,
how could he?

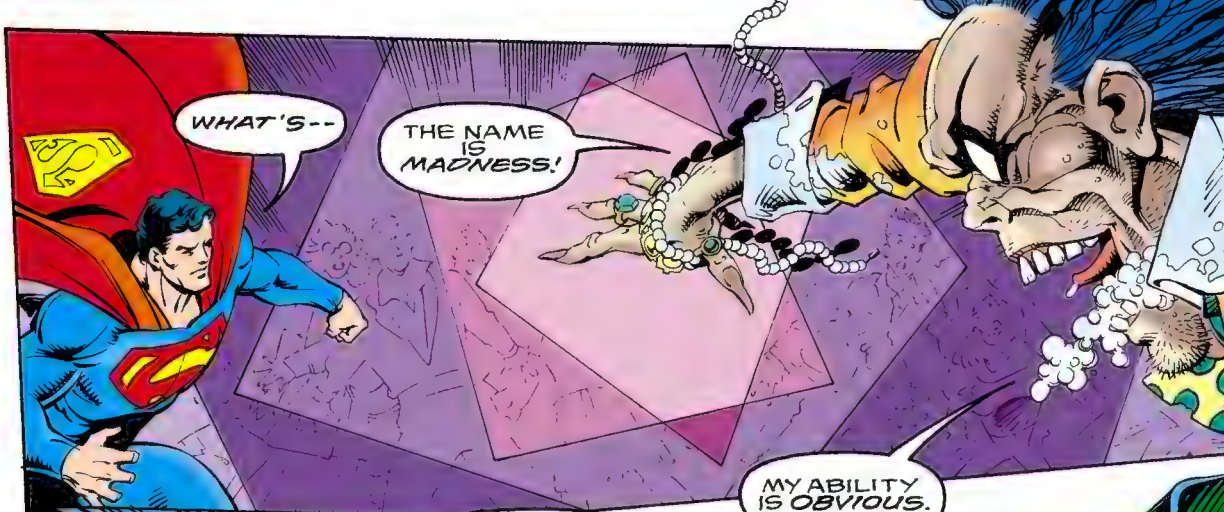
...he had
business
elsewhere.



I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE,
BUT YOU PICKED
THE **WRONG** PLACE
TO START
YOUR CAREER.

DID I?
LET'S
SEE.





WHAT'S--

THE NAME
IS
MADNESS!

MY ABILITY
IS OBVIOUS.



ONCE MORE
INTO
THE BREACH!

I'M CARMEN
MIRANDA!
KISS ME!

♪ LET'S
TWIST
AGAIN LIKE
WE DID...♪



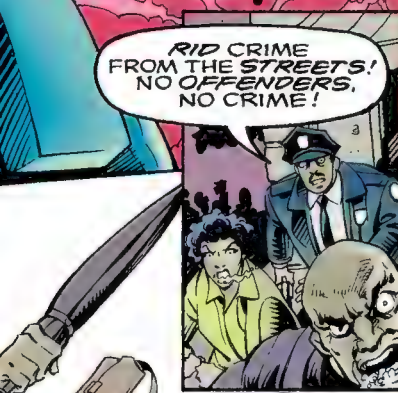
DON'T
WORRY,
SLIPS!
WE'RE
HERE!



SO
YOU
ARE.

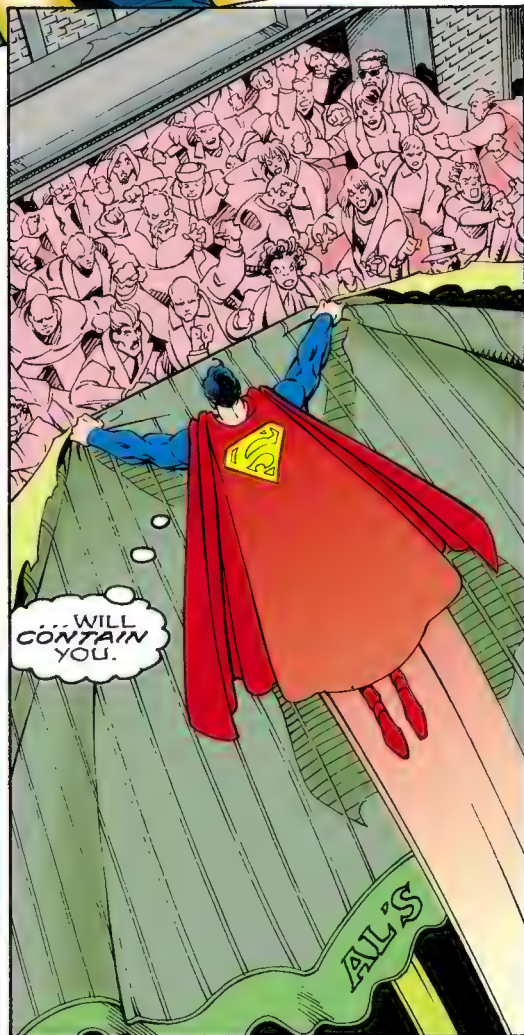
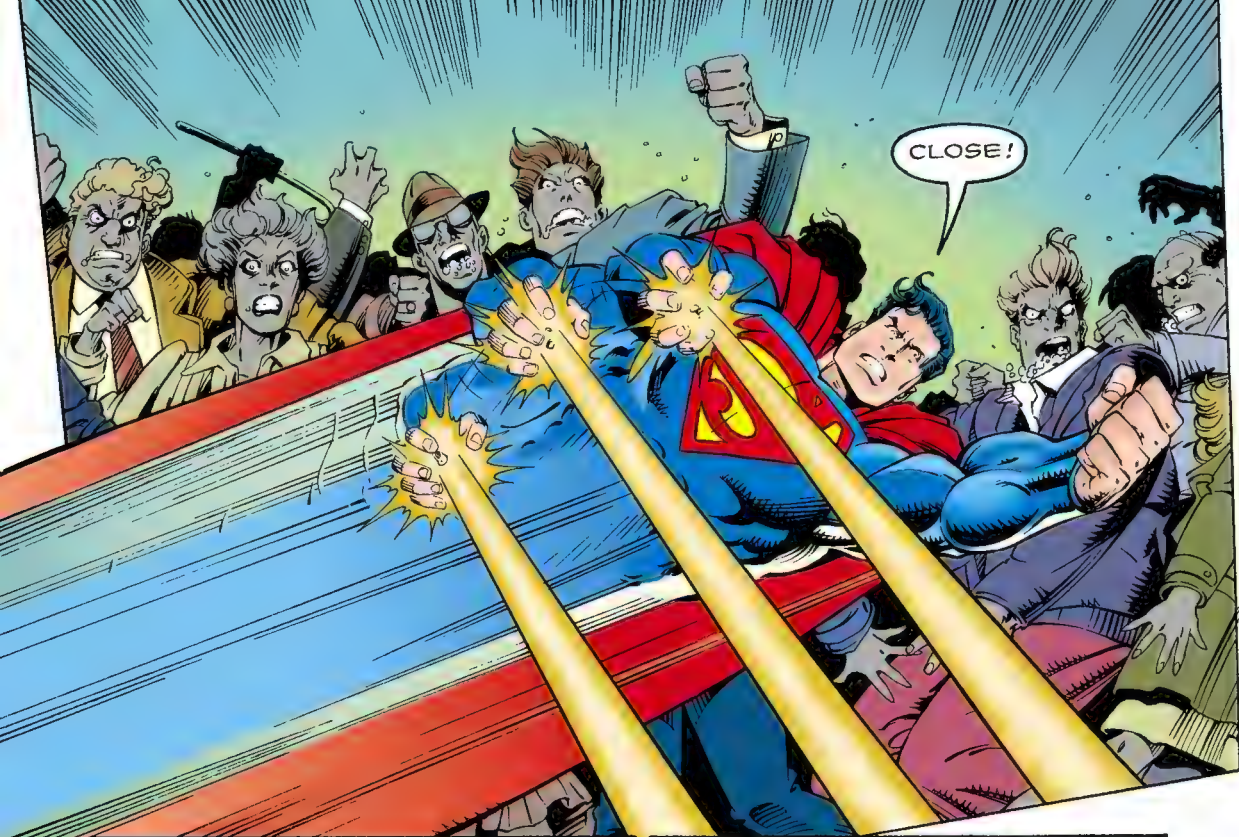


GET BACK,
YOU IDIOTS!
HE CAN--



NO!





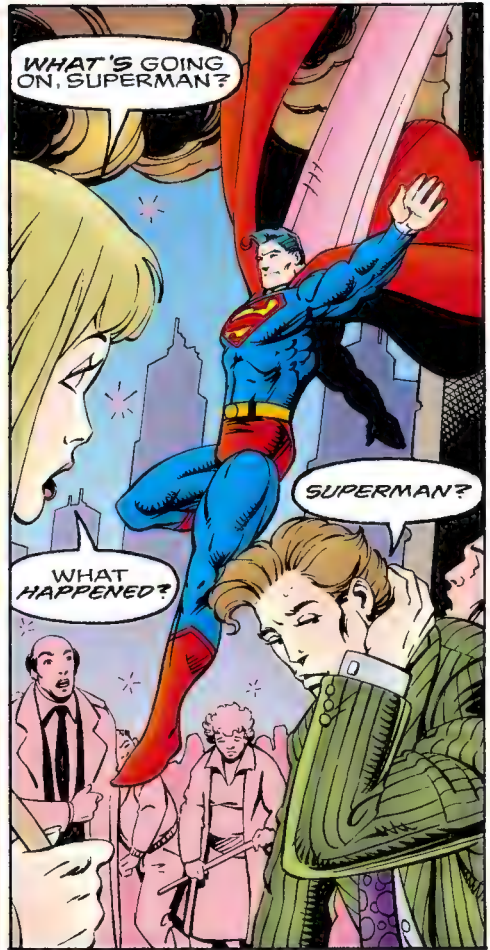


WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

--DON'T RECALL.

WHAT HAPPENED TO JOEY? HE'S --

--SAM'S HURT BAD.



WHAT'S GOING ON, SUPERMAN?

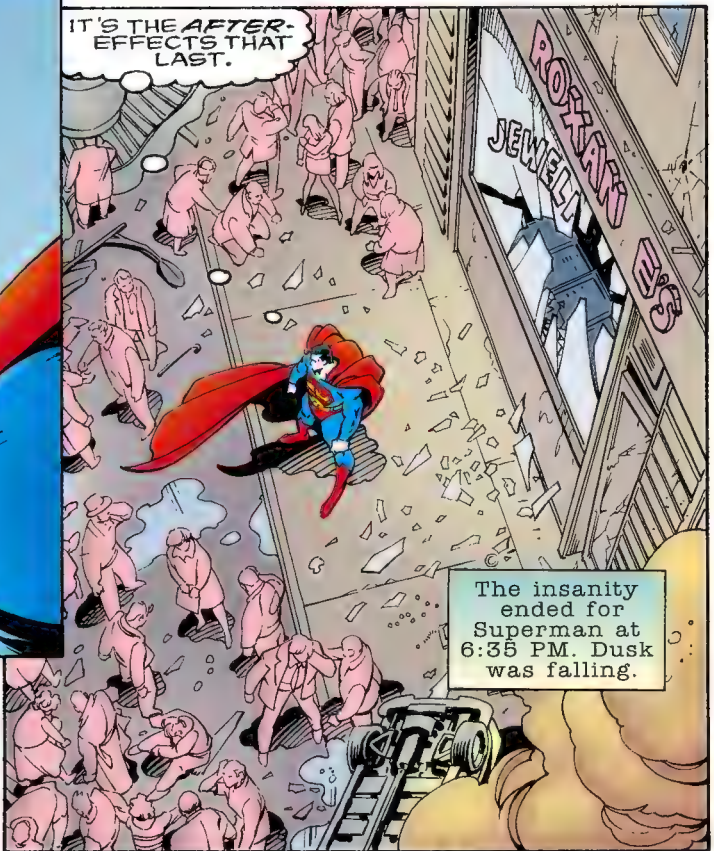
SUPERMAN?

WHAT HAPPENED?



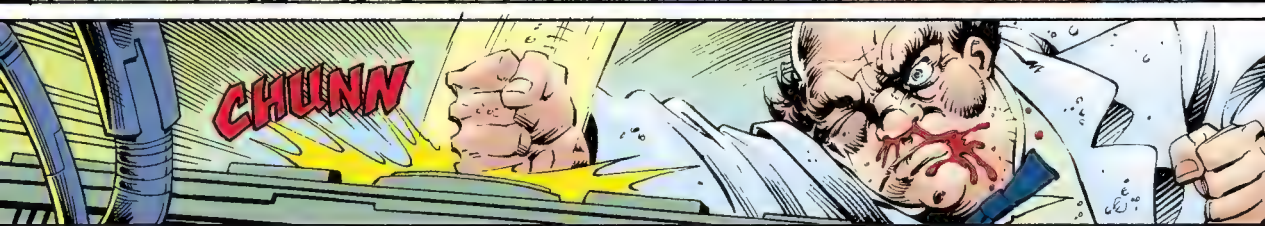
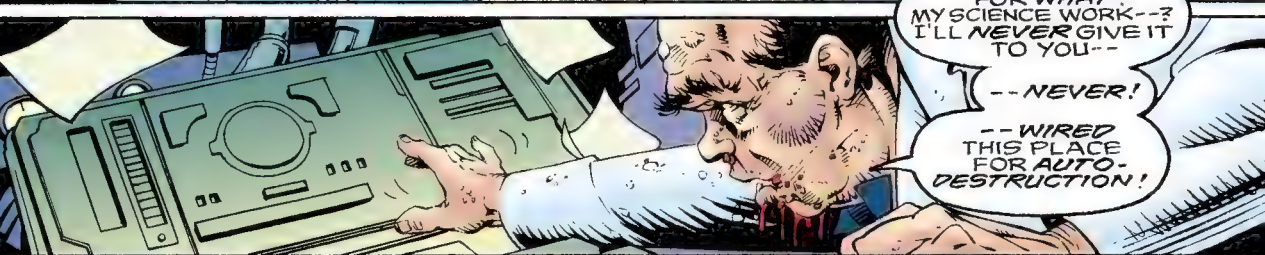
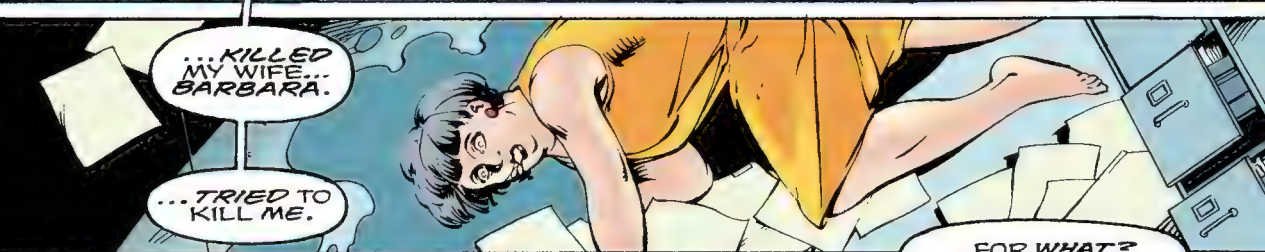
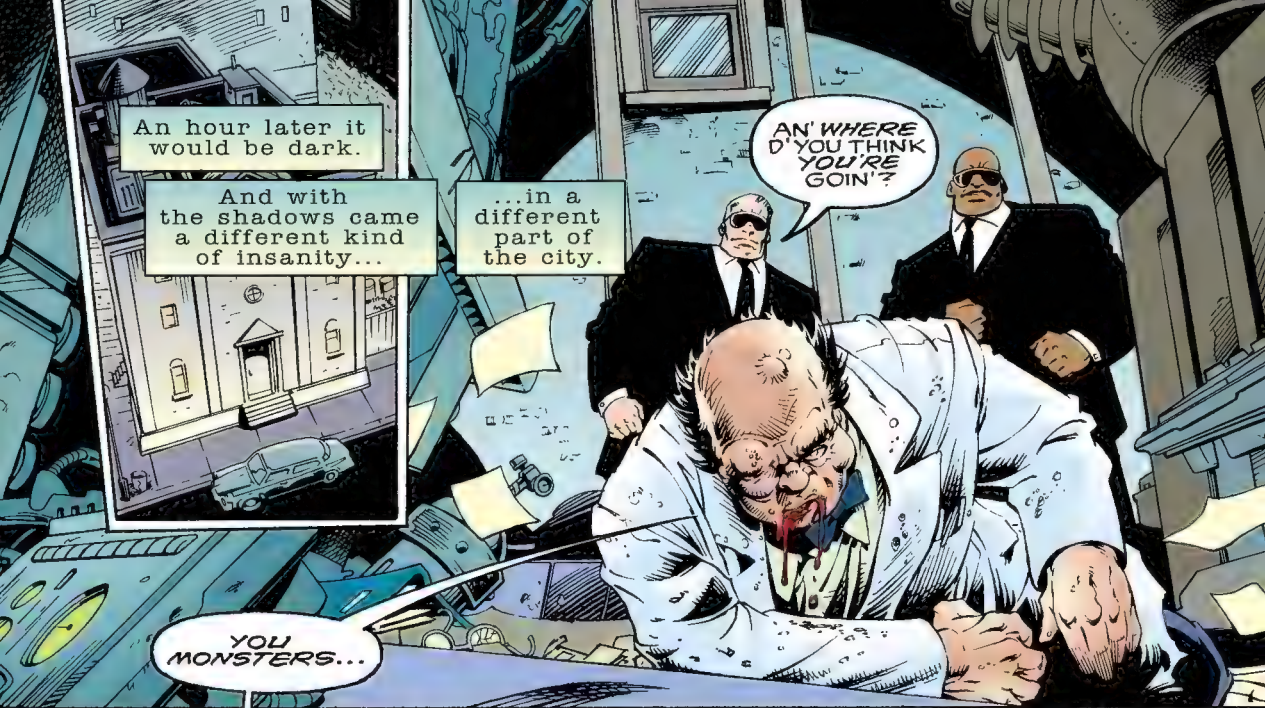
IT SEEMS THE EFFECTS OF MADNESS'S POWER ARE FLEETING.

BUT LIKE ALWAYS...



IT'S THE AFTER-EFFECTS THAT LAST.

The insanity ended for Superman at 6:35 PM. Dusk was falling.



OH, YOU
WILL
CERTAINLY,
BUT ME--

KBOOM!

TO BE CONTINUED...

John

U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE PART II

MAD SCIENCE

JAMES ROBINSON • **VAL SEMEIKS**
WRITER PENCILLER
PAUL NEARY • **JANICE CHIANG**
INKER LETTERER
KEVIN SOMERS • **MAUREEN MCTIGUE**
COLORIST ASSISTANT
JOE CAVALIERI
EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

COVER PAINTING BY
GLEN ORBIK

Luthor Towers
is a mere ten days
from completion.

But ten is
the number
that starts
a countdown,
and apart from
the countdown
to Lex Luthor
himself cutting
the ribbon...

...the days appear
to be counting
down to
something else...

...something far
more surprising...
alarming...and
unexplainable...



...Lex Luthor's
downfall.

Or so
the pundits
and financial
observers have
prophesied,
following the
many commercial
disasters to
have dogged the
Metropolis tycoon
in recent months.

THIS
FOOL...

There have been
rumors from
within Luthor's
organization that
a multilayered form
of industrial sabotage
is responsible for
LexCorp's many
computer/equipment
malfunctions.

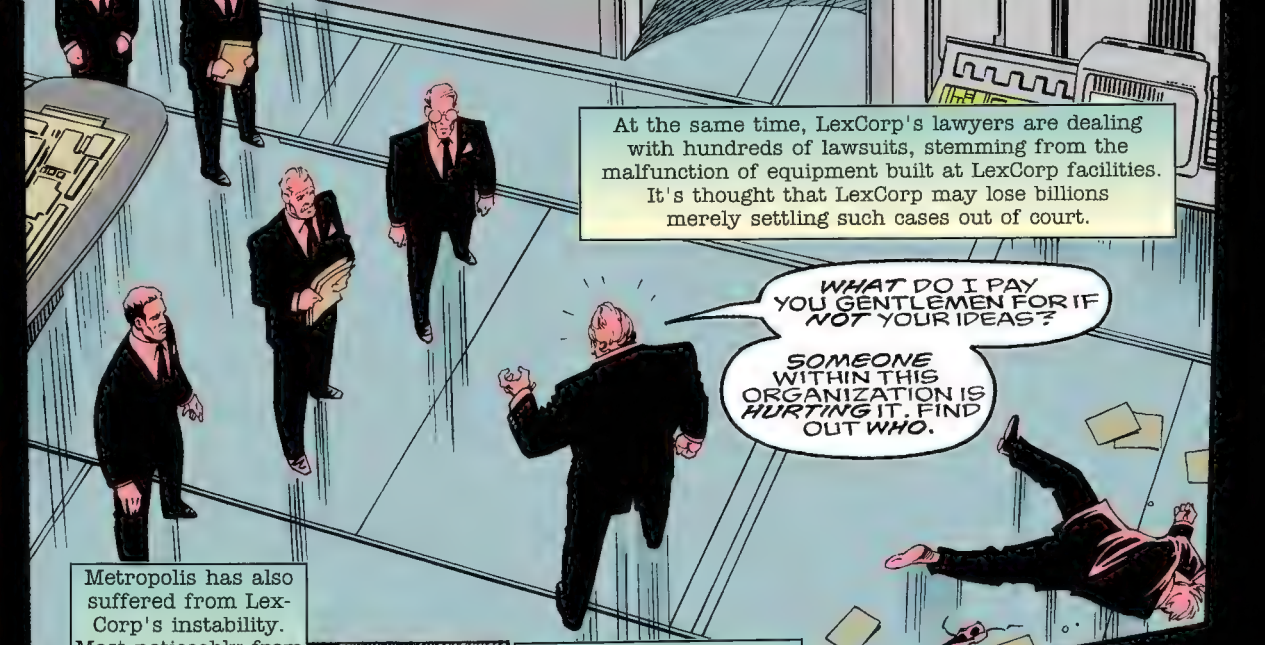
...DARED TO TELL ME
HE HAD NO IDEA WHO
THE SABOTEUR IS, WHICH IS
WHEN HE HAD A LITTLE
BAD LUCK...MUGGED
IN THE ALLEY BEHIND
THE BUILDING.

Some malfunctions involving LexCorp's
stock exchange interface software have
caused the company to accumulate
millions in worthless bonds while
divesting their more valuable
holdings for pennies on the dollar.

ARE YOU
GOING TO TELL
ME THE SAME
THING, HEWITT?
AND RISK BAD
LUCK, TOO?

WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
CARLISLE?

OR YOU,
LOVELL?



At the same time, LexCorp's lawyers are dealing with hundreds of lawsuits, stemming from the malfunction of equipment built at LexCorp facilities. It's thought that LexCorp may lose billions merely settling such cases out of court.

WHAT DO I PAY YOU GENTLEMEN FOR IF NOT YOUR IDEAS?

SOMEONE WITHIN THIS ORGANIZATION IS HURTING IT. FIND OUT WHO.

Metropolis has also suffered from LexCorp's instability. Most noticeably from the high degree of hardware, software, and mechanical equipment built by LexCorp and used by the city, which is malfunctioning everywhere.

These disasters have at times been minor...

...a four-way intersection where all lights turn to red or green at once... the air-conditioning going out in an office building...

AND YOU, DRAKE...

SNAK!

...MY HEAD OF SECURITY. YOU CLAIM TO KNOW THE STREETS!

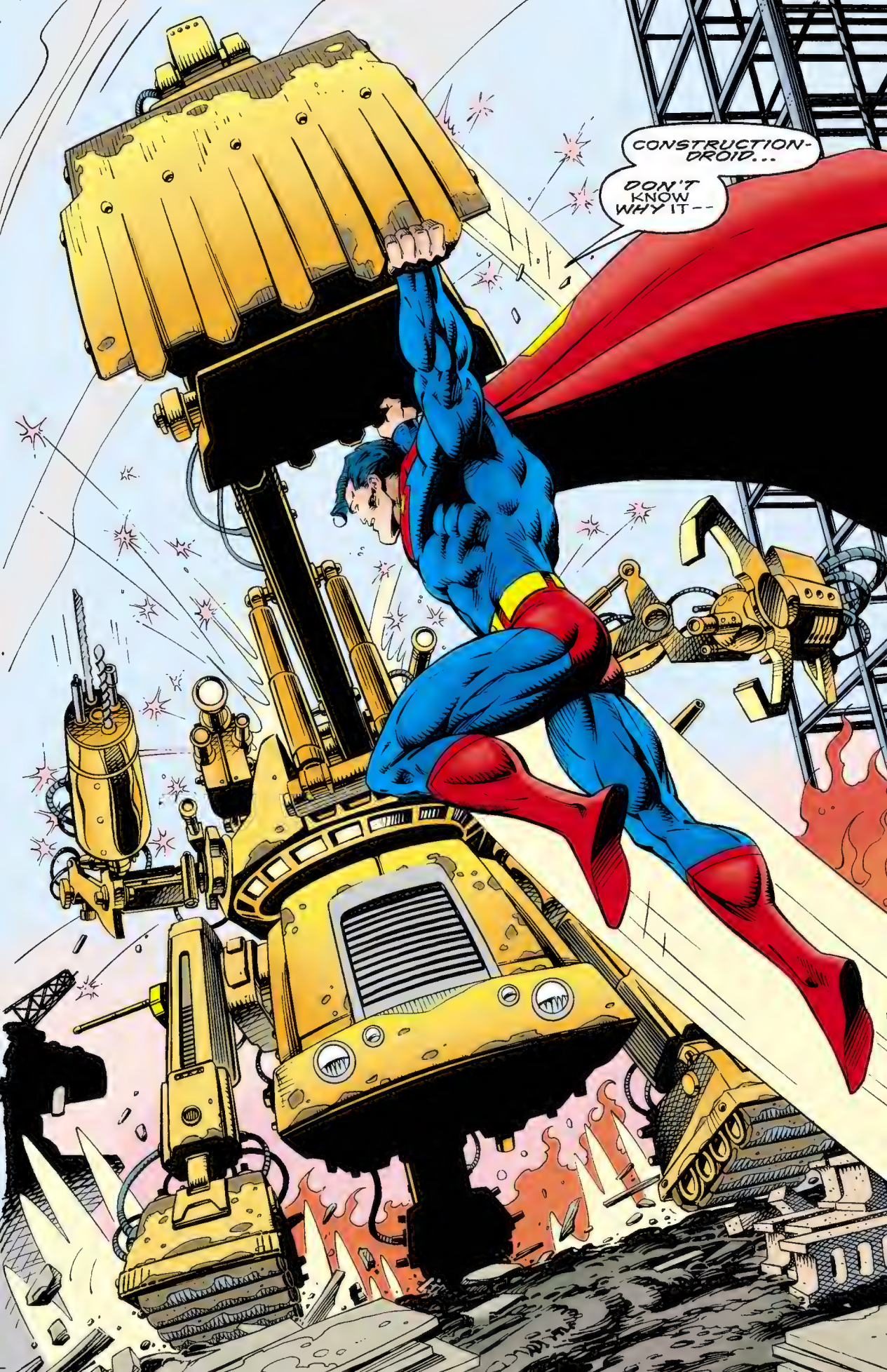
WHY AREN'T YOU ON THEM, HUNTING?

NO SWEAT, MR. LUTHOR. I'LL GET YOU THE ANSWERS THESE SCARED SUITS CAN'T.

SEE THAT YOU DO AND QUICKLY. GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT'S GOING TO GO WRONG NEXT.

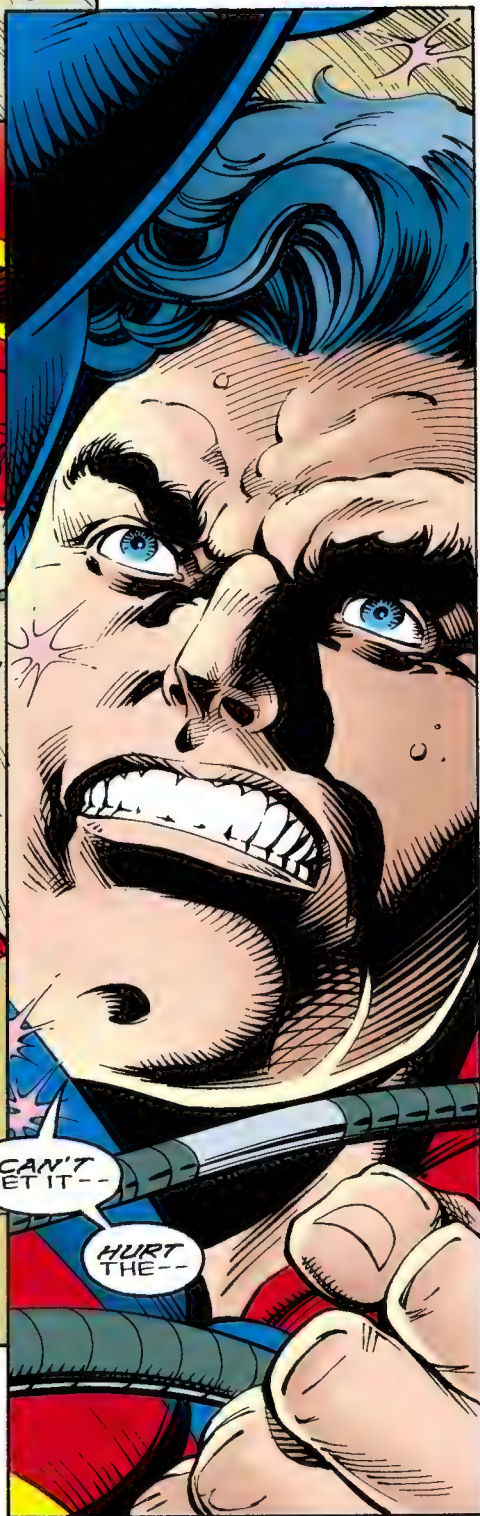
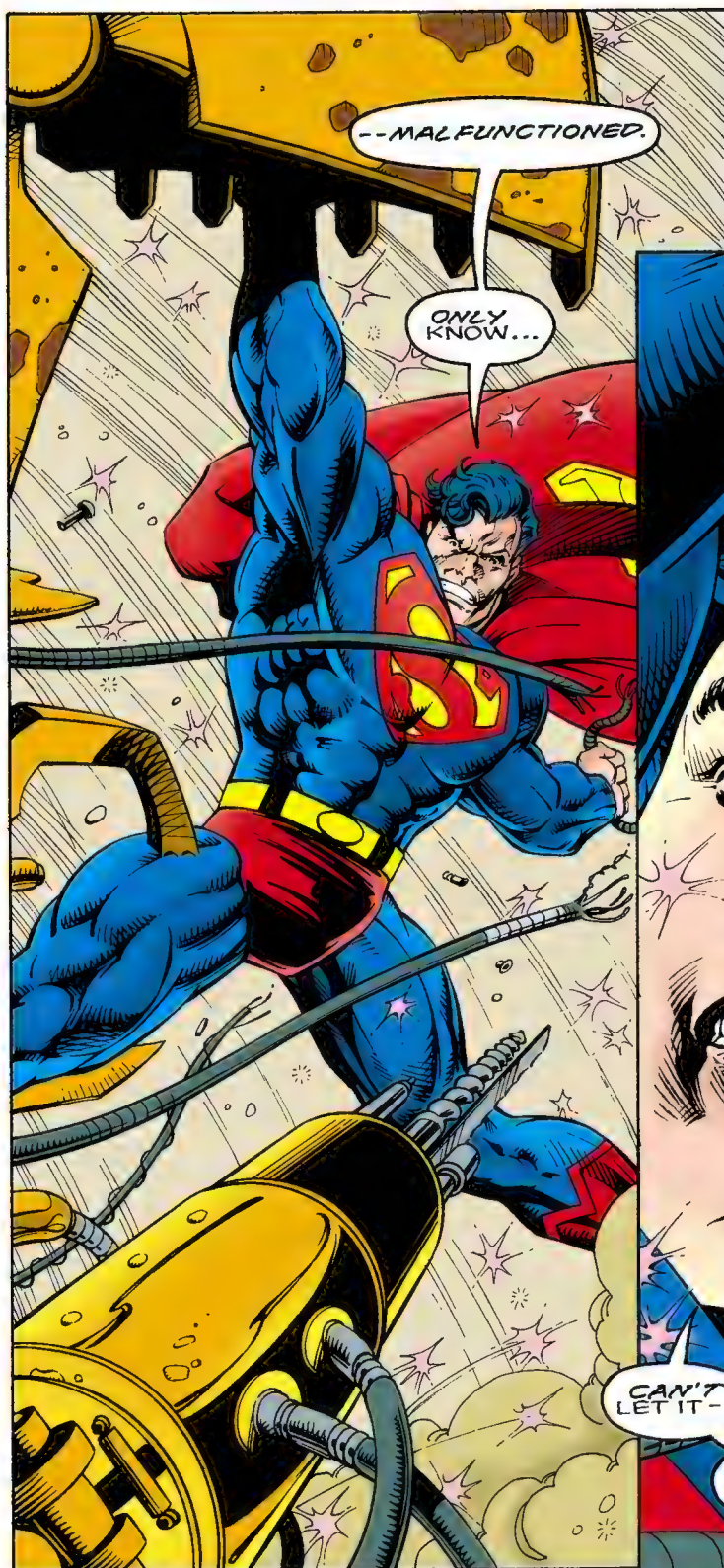
But at other times the malfunctions have been of epic proportions... where loss of life might have been enormous...

...if Metropolis had no protection against such events.



CONSTRUCTION-DROID...

DON'T KNOW WHY IT--





--CITY!!

ELSEWHERE IN
THAT SAME CITY...

AS SUPERMAN'S
MECHANICAL
FOE FALLS...

...SO A NUMBER OF
THE CITY'S RESIDENTS
FALL, TOO...

...AND THEN RISE AND
FALL AGAIN, AND RUIN
AND CAPER AND
CARTWHEEL AND
DROOL AND FUMBLE
AND GIGGLE AND
FLING THEMSELVES
ABOUT WITH
ABANDON.

FIRST BANK OF MET





... THE ABANDON
OF INSANITY.

MADNESS!

... MAKING ALL
AROUND
HIS MARIONETTES.

HE SMILES FOR
AN INSTANT...
THINKING OF
SUPERMAN,
KEPT BUSY ON
THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE CITY...

... AND THEN
HE IS GONE...

... ALLOWING
THE MARIONETTES'
STRINGS TO
BREAK.
THE PUPPETS
FALL.



NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE, SUPERMAN. METROPOLIS IS SO LOCKED INTO USING LUTHOR'S TECHNOLOGY, IT WOULD GRIND TO A HALT IF IT DISCONTINUED IT ALL.



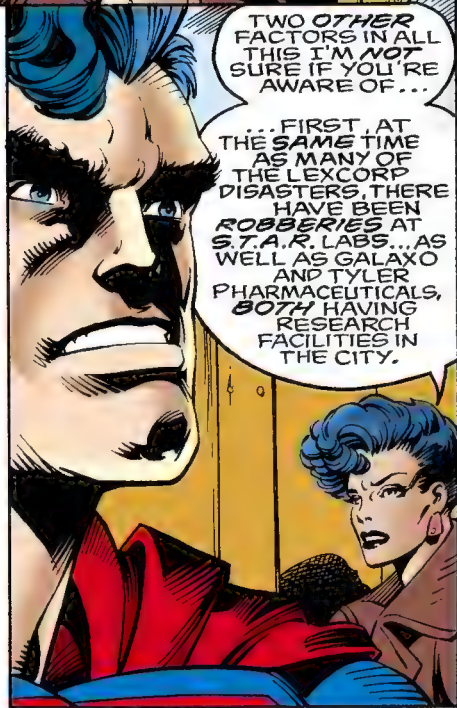
BESIDES THIS MACHINE... THE CONSTRUCTION PROUD WAS OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURE. BUT LEXCORP SUPPLIED ITS COMPUTER SOFTWARE.



SO EVEN LEXCORP'S EXPORTS ABROAD ARE COMING BACK TO STING US?

IT SEEMS THAT WAY.

THIS HAS TO STOP! I HAVE TO MAKE IT STOP!



TWO OTHER FACTORS IN ALL THIS I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE AWARE OF...

... FIRST, AT THE SAME TIME AS MANY OF THE LEXCORP DISASTERS, THERE HAVE BEEN ROBBERIES AT S.T.A.R. LABS... AS WELL AS GALAXO AND TYLER PHARMACEUTICALS, BOTH HAVING RESEARCH FACILITIES IN THE CITY.

PLUS MADNESS, THAT NEW THIEF, HAS ALWAYS STRUCK AT THE SAME TIME AS WELL. TODAY... HIS ROBBERY COINCIDED TO THE SECOND WITH THE CONSTRUCTION DROID'S MALFUNCTION, AND A THEFT AT ONE OF S.T.A.R.'S ANNEXES.

YOU SEE? THERE'S A LINK. EVERYTHING'S CHOREOGRAPHED.

IT'S TRUE THAT MADNESS STRUCK THE OTHER DAY AT THE SAME TIME METROPOLIS AIRPORT'S LEXCORP TRACKING SYSTEM DIED AND I HAD TO STOP ALL THOSE PLANES FROM HITTING EACH OTHER.

AND WHEN YOU STOPPED THE MASS BREAKOUT AFTER STRYKER'S ISLAND PRISON'S SECURITY SYSTEM CRASHED...

THAT'S WHEN MADNESS ROBBED THE JEWELRY EXCHANGE.

AND AT EACH OF THOSE TIMES IN OTHER PARTS OF TOWN, THERE WERE ROBBERIES OF ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT. THERE HAS TO BE A LINK.

SEEMS LIKELY, ALTHOUGH MADNESS MAY JUST BE A ROGUE WITH A GIFT FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SITUATIONS.

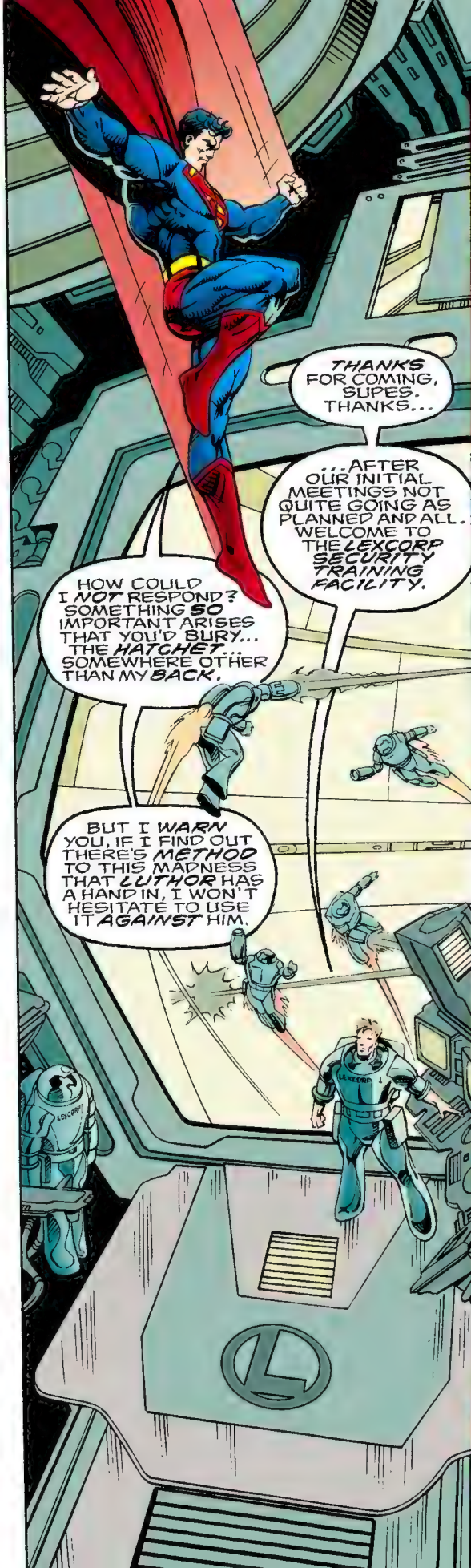
I HAVE TO GO.

WHERE?

SOMEONE CONTACTED ME. SOMEONE WHO MIGHT INDEED BE ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT UPON EVENTS.

WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

SOON, LOIS. I THINK WE'RE FATED TO SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER.



THANKS FOR COMING, SUPES. THANKS...

...AFTER OUR INITIAL MEETINGS NOT QUITE GOING AS PLANNED AND ALL. WELCOME TO THE LEXCORP SECURITY TRAINING FACILITY.

HOW COULD I NOT RESPOND? SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT ARISES THAT YOU'D BURY... THE **HATCHET**... SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN MY **BACK**.

BUT I WARN YOU, IF I FIND OUT THERE'S **METHOD** TO THIS MADNESS THAT **LUTHOR** HAS A HAND IN, I WON'T HESITATE TO USE IT **AGAINST** HIM.

GET IN **LIVE**, SUPES, CAUSE WHOEVER IS COMMITTING THE ACTS OF **SABOTAGE** YOU'VE STOPPED...

...WHOEVER THAT PERSON IS, HAS A WAY **BIG HEAD**... START ON YOU AND **EVERY** OTHER ONE OF LEX LUTHOR'S ENEMIES.

FNAAK!

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME?

THE SABOTAGE IS **WIDESPREAD**.

SOME OF IT IS COMPUTER SABOTAGE, THE PRODUCT **MALFUNCTIONS** STEM FROM A PETRI DISH FULL OF COMPUTER VIRUSES THAT LEXCORP'S SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN **LACED** WITH IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN **ORDERS** GIVEN COVERTLY VIA E-MAIL... MADE TO LOOK LIKE THEY COME FROM **LUTHOR HIMSELF**. THE ORDERS MAKE IT SO THINGS **AREN'T** DONE WHICH LEXCORP **NEEDS** DONE TO MAINTAIN ITS... **DOMINANCE**.

OR THINGS ARE DONE THAT **SHOULDN'T** BE... TO MAKE LEXCORP LOOK **BAD**.

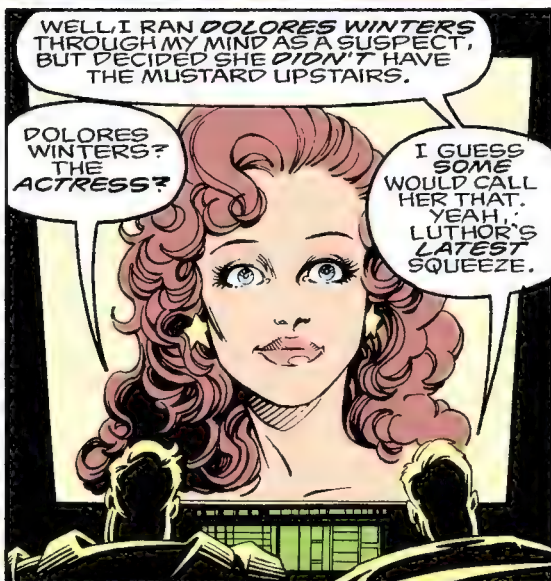
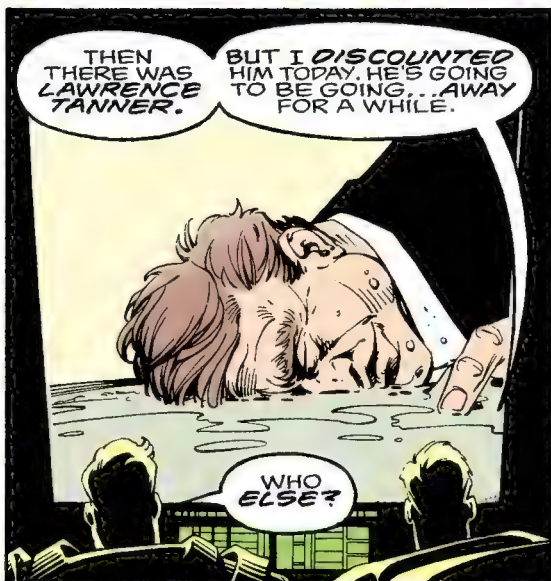
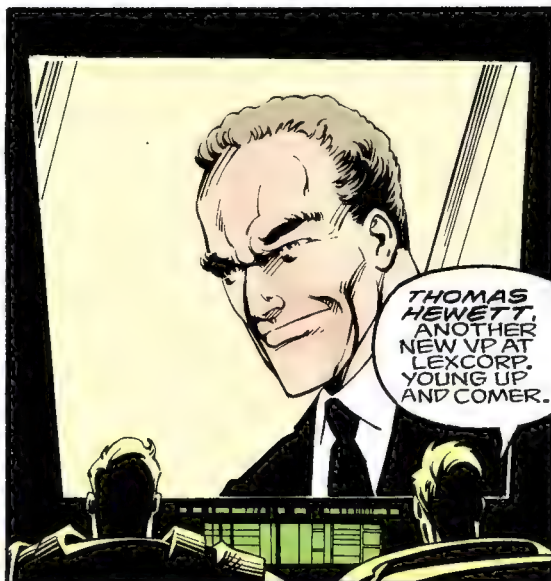
WHO COULD IMPLEMENT ALL THIS?

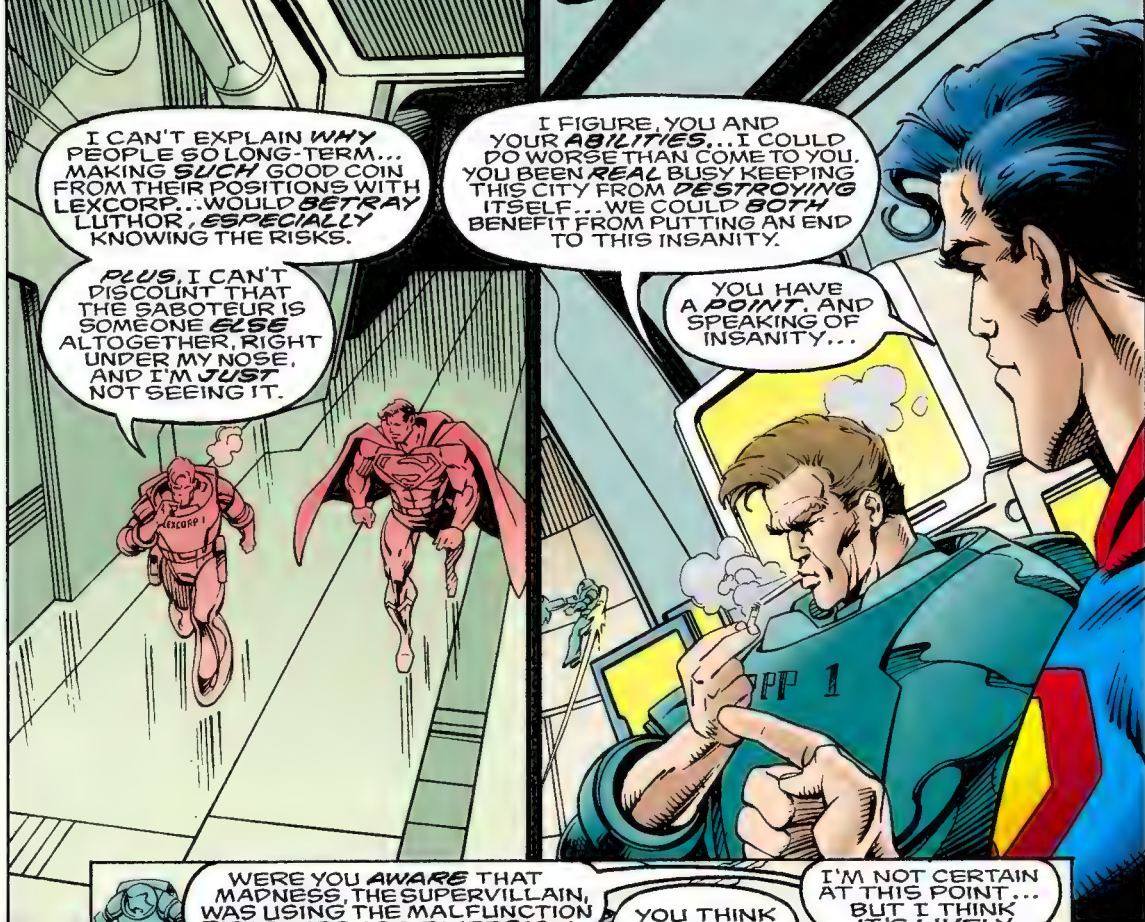
SOMEONE **HIGH** UP THE LADDER OF **COMMAND**.

NOT LEX LUTHOR, NOT **ME**, APART FROM THAT, IT COULD BE ONE OF **MANY**.

WHO ARE YOUR **PRINCIPAL** SUSPECTS?

LEXCORP 1





I CAN'T EXPLAIN *WHY* PEOPLE SO LONG-TERM... MAKING *SUCH* GOOD COIN FROM THEIR POSITIONS WITH LEXCORP... WOULD *BETRAY* LUTHOR, *ESPECIALLY* KNOWING THE RISKS.

PLUS, I CAN'T DISCOUNT THAT THE SABOTEUR IS SOMEONE *ELSE* ALTOGETHER, RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE, AND I'M *JUST* NOT SEEING IT.

I FIGURE, YOU AND YOUR *ABILITIES*... I COULD DO WORSE THAN COME TO YOU. YOU BEEN *REAL* BUSY KEEPING THIS CITY FROM *DESTROYING* ITSELF... WE COULD *BOTH* BENEFIT FROM PUTTING AN END TO THIS INSANITY.

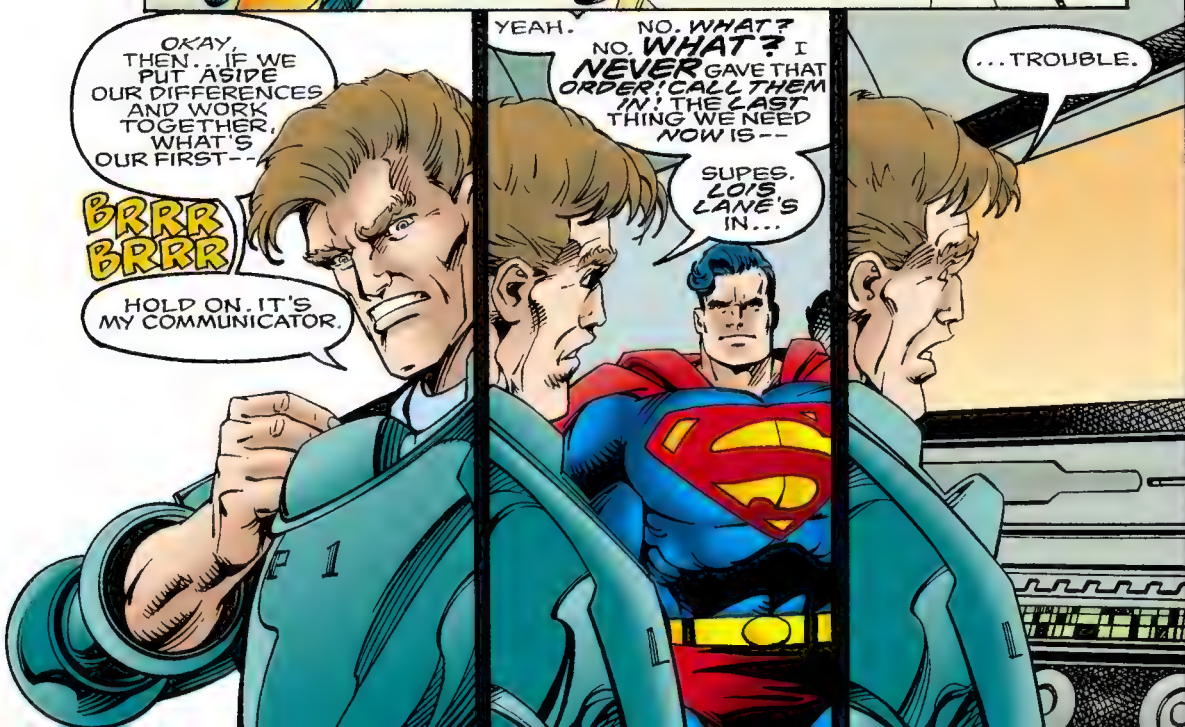
YOU HAVE A *POINT*. AND SPEAKING OF INSANITY...



WERE YOU *AWARE* THAT MADNESS, THE SUPERVILLAIN, WAS USING THE MALFUNCTION DISASTERS AS A *DIVERSION* FOR HIS OWN CRIMES?

YOU THINK HE'S INVOLVED?

I'M NOT CERTAIN AT THIS POINT... BUT I THINK IT'S *LIKELY*.



OKAY, THEN... IF WE PUT ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES AND WORK TOGETHER, WHAT'S OUR FIRST--

BRRR BRRR

HOLD ON. IT'S MY COMMUNICATOR.

YEAH.

NO. WHAT? NO. *WHAT?* I NEVER GAVE THAT ORDER! CALL THEM IN! THE LAST THING WE NEED NOW IS--

SUPES. LOIS LANE'S IN...

...TROUBLE.

I've been in fear for my life before. Of course...

...Being a reporter, danger and the fear that shares its footsteps are friends you must learn to live with.

But this was different. This wasn't me seeking a story and coming into peril. This wasn't me going to the danger.

This time it came to me...

WHERE'S WILDE'S PHOTO, MS. LANE?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. WHAT PHOTO?

IF WE WANTED TO PLAY GAMES, ME AND MY BUDDY HERE WOULD THROW HOOPS FOR A FEW HOURS.

OR MONOPOLY. I LOVE MONOPOLY.

...to my home.

I felt vulnerable.

I felt violated.

I felt angry...

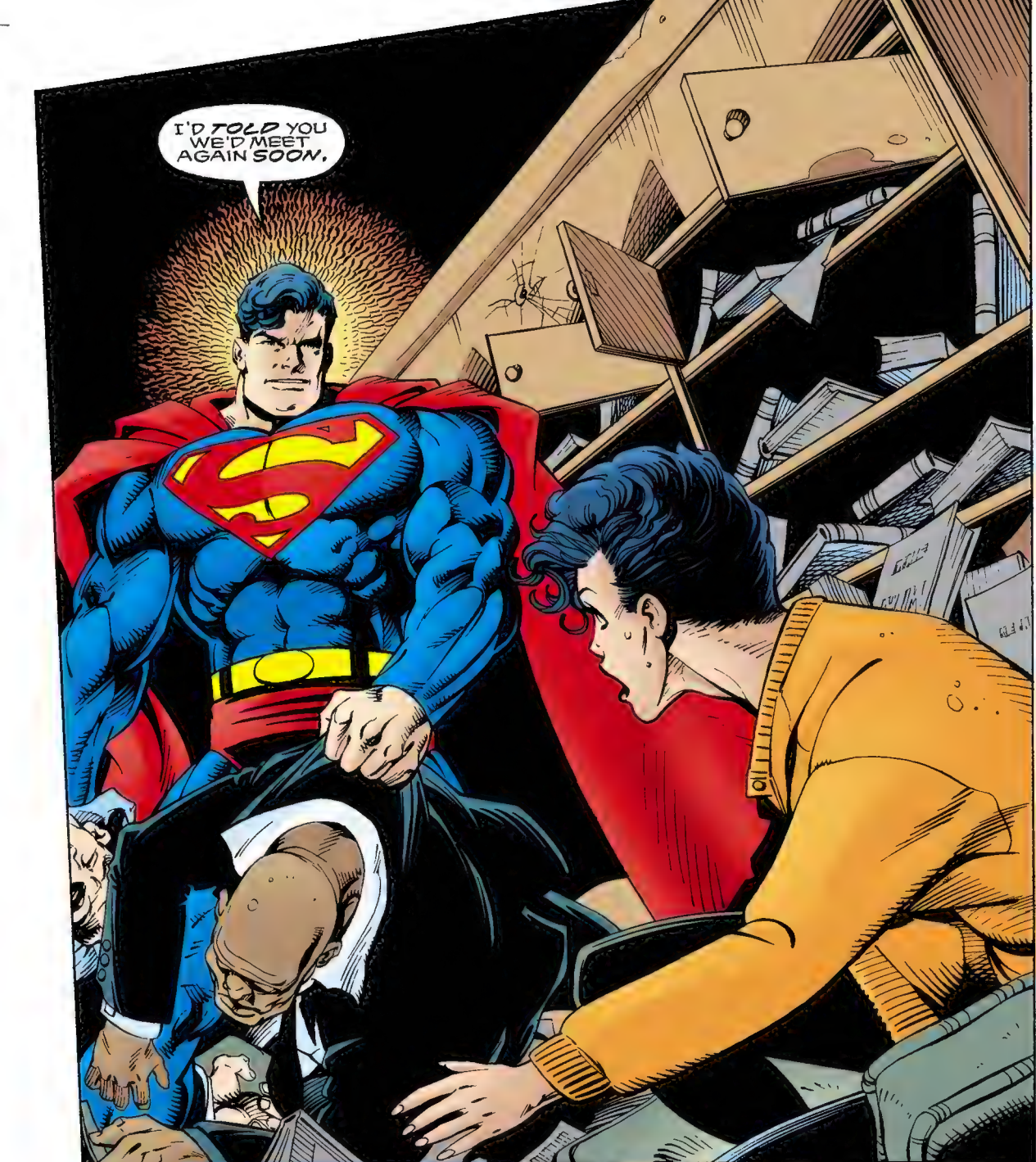
ONE LAST TIME, MS. LANE, WHERE'S THE PHOTOGRAPH THAT WILDE GAVE TO YOU OF HIM AND HIS WIFE?

...but I sure wasn't giving them the photo.

I GUESS YOUR FAVORITE GAME IS OPERATION, MS. LANE.

I HOPE SO FOR YOUR SAKE 'CAUSE ME AND MY FRIEND ARE GONNA START EXTRACTING--

I DON'T KNOW!



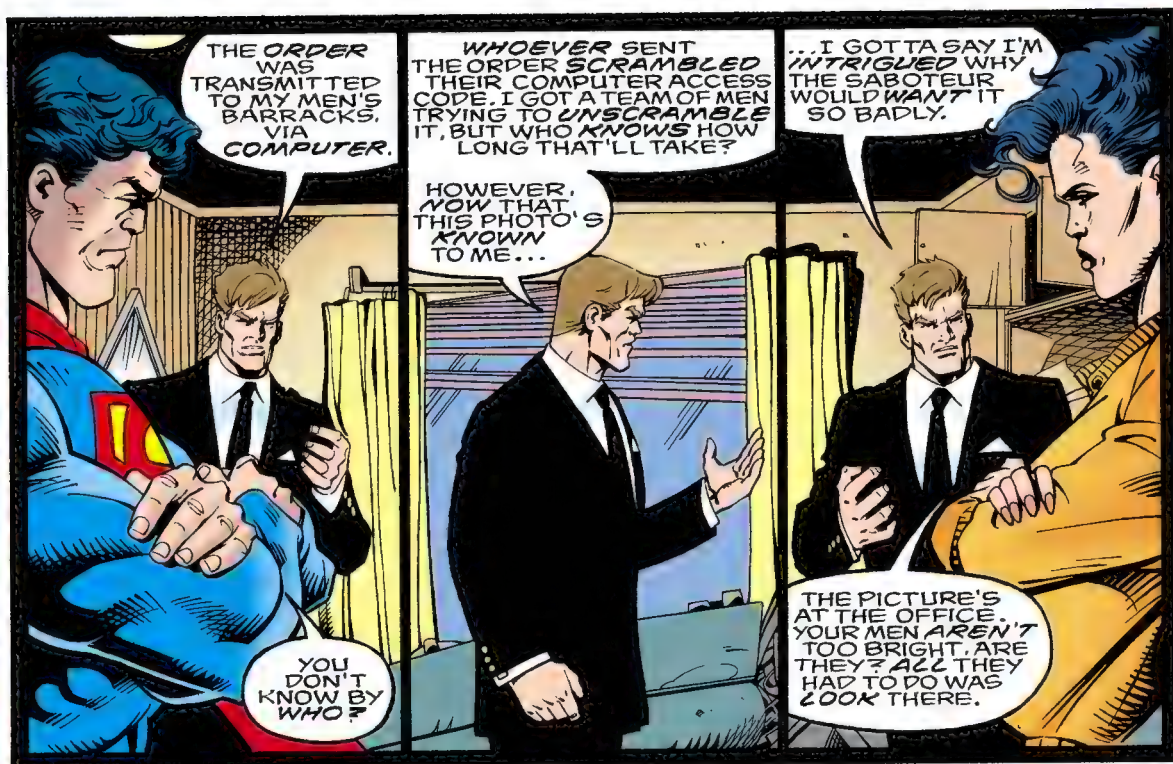
I'D TOLD YOU
WE'D MEET
AGAIN SOON.

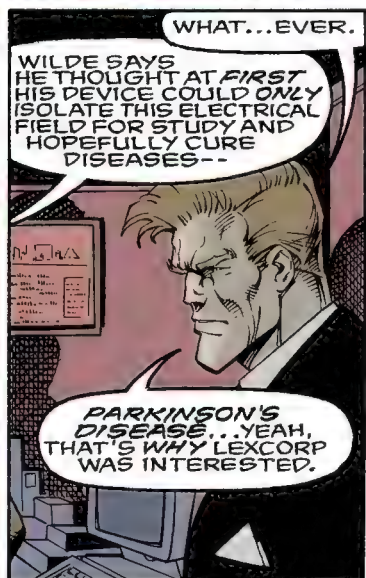
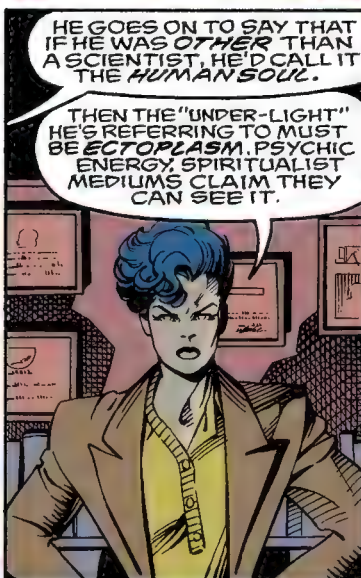
LATER.



I SWEAR
I HAD
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
THIS.

MR. LUTHOR
ASSURES ME HE
HAD NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE ORDER EITHER.
IN FACT, NEITHER OF
US KNEW ABOUT
THE EXISTENCE
OF THE PHOTO.





BUT WILDE DISCOVERED HIS DEVICE COULD ALSO DRAW THE FIELD FROM ONE BODY AND TRANSFER IT TO ANOTHER, AND THE PERSON'S THOUGHTS AND CONSCIOUSNESS ALONG WITH IT.



THEN, HE WAS NUTS! HE HONESTLY THOUGHT HE COULD MOVE A SOUL FROM ONE BODY AND INTO ANOTHER? SUDDENLY WE'RE IN A '30S HORROR MOVIE.

SO IT WOULD BE LIKE POSSESSION, SUPERMAN? TWO SOULS IN ONE BODY?



NO. HIS RESEARCH USING DOGS AND MONKEYS AS TEST SUBJECTS... TWO SPECIES WILDE ALSO CLAIMS HAVE "UNDER-LIGHT", SHOWED THAT THE BODY CAN ONLY TAKE ONE SOUL AT A TIME.



THE FIRST SOUL IS DESTROYED WHEN THE NEW ONE ENTERS IT.

LIKE DEATH?

I THINK THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE'S SOUL IS A LITTLE MORE THAN THAT.

WILDE HAD A TERM FOR ANYONE WHO HAS THIS PROCESS DONE TO THEM...



...THEIR SOUL TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER BODY...



U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE.

GREAT. SO WHAT?

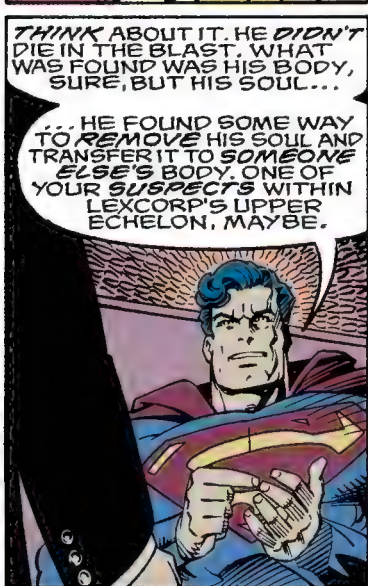
SO WHAT? I THINK THIS TELLS US WHO LEXCORP'S SABOTEUR IS.

MORGAN WILDE, HIMSELF.



THINK ABOUT IT. HE DIDN'T DIE IN THE BLAST. WHAT WAS FOUND WAS HIS BODY, SURE, BUT HIS SOUL...

... HE FOUND SOME WAY TO REMOVE HIS SOUL AND TRANSFER IT TO SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY. ONE OF YOUR SUSPECTS WITHIN LEXCORP'S UPPER ECHELON, MAYBE.



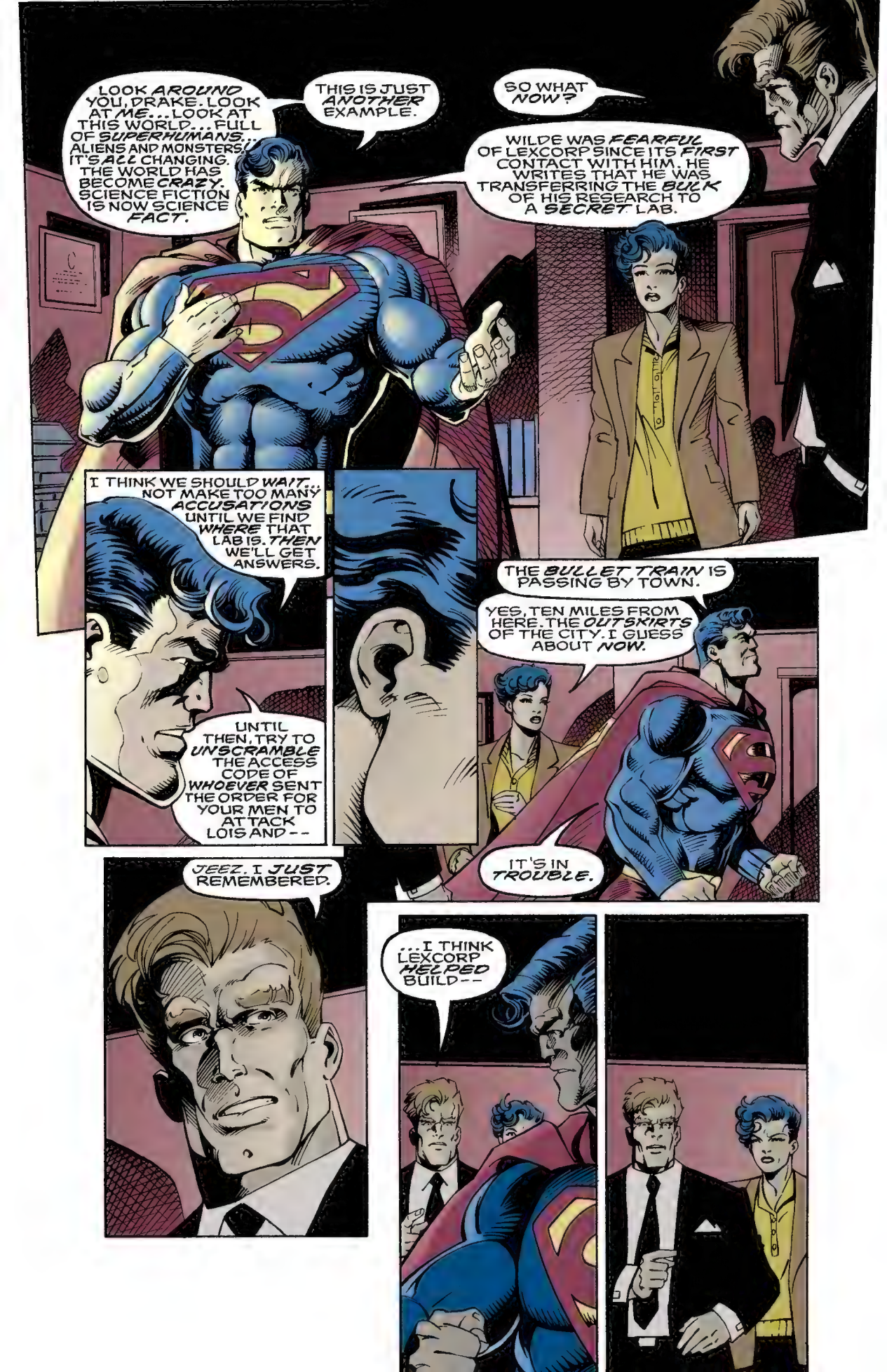
YEAH, OR MAYBE DOLORES WINTERS IS SUDDENLY NOT SO DUMB.

MAYBE.



NO, THIS IS CRAZY! THIS IS LIKE THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS I READ AS A KID.





LOOK AROUND YOU, DRAKE. LOOK AT ME... LOOK AT THIS WORLD... FULL OF SUPERHUMANS... ALIENS AND MONSTERS... IT'S ALL CHANGING. THE WORLD HAS BECOME CRAZY. SCIENCE FICTION IS NOW SCIENCE FACT.

THIS IS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

SO WHAT NOW?

WILDE WAS FEARFUL OF LEXCORP SINCE ITS FIRST CONTACT WITH HIM. HE WRITES THAT HE WAS TRANSFERRING THE BULK OF HIS RESEARCH TO A SECRET LAB.

I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT. NOT MAKE TOO MANY ACCUSATIONS UNTIL WE FIND WHERE THAT LAB IS. THEN WE'LL GET ANSWERS.

UNTIL THEN, TRY TO UNSCRAMBLE THE ACCESS CODE OF WHOEVER SENT THE ORDER FOR YOUR MEN TO ATTACK LOIS AND --

THE BULLET TRAIN IS PASSING BY TOWN.

YES, TEN MILES FROM HERE. THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY. I GUESS ABOUT NOW.

IT'S IN TROUBLE.

JEEZ. I JUST REMEMBERED.

...I THINK LEXCORP HELPED BUILD--



Superman
stopped the
train just
in time.

He saved lives.
More lives.

But then...
that's what
he does.

And at the
same time...



...in another part of the city,
Madness reigned.



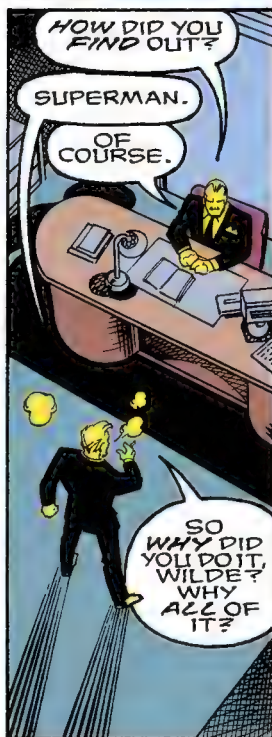
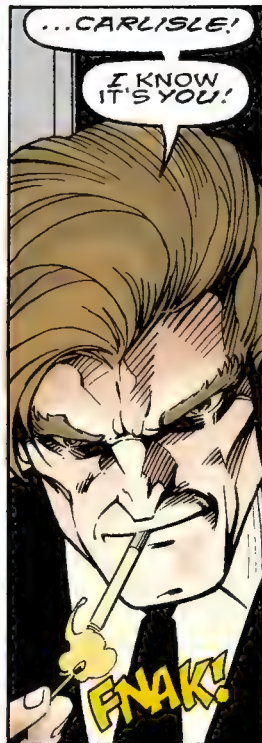
And in yet another
part of the city, more
scientific equipment
was stolen.

The three events
happening at
the same time.



On time.

On cue.



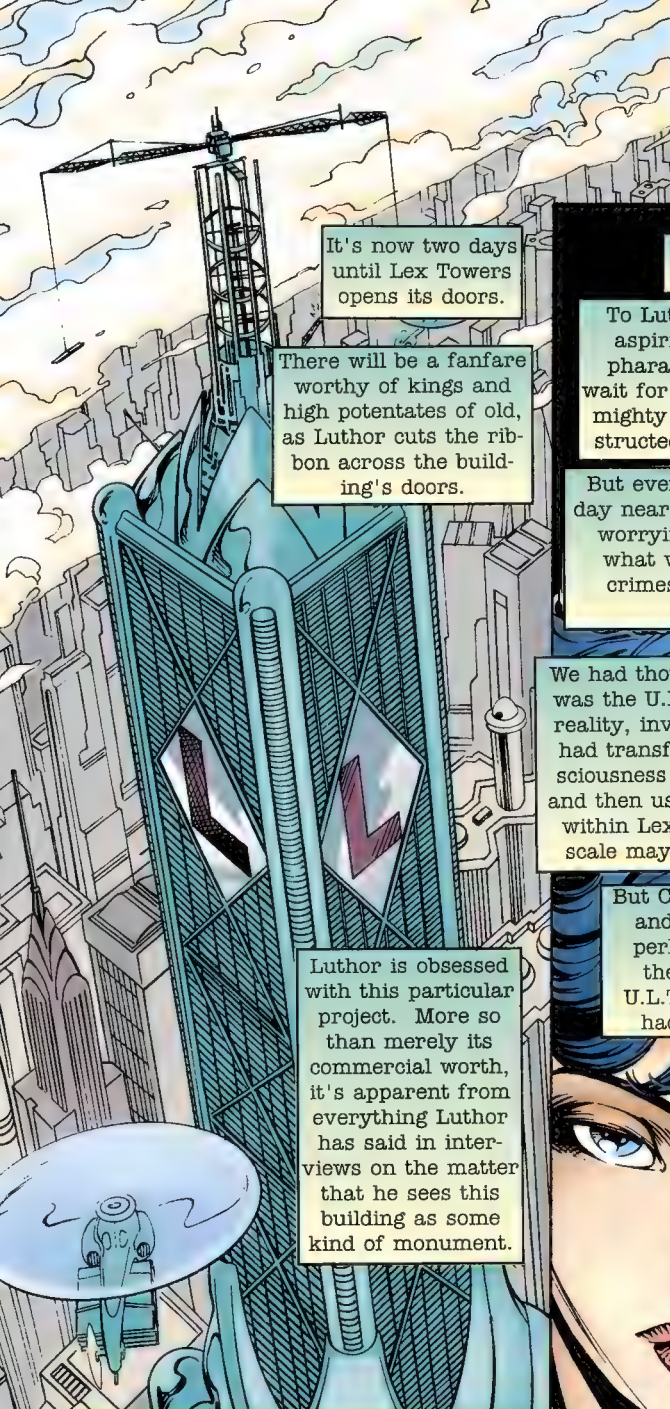
HE
HAD A GUN.
SUPERMAN. WE
STRUGGLED. IT
WENT OFF.

I WISH
HE WAS ALIVE
SO WE COULD
QUESTION HIM,
BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
NOW.

THE
U.L.T.R.A.
HUMANITE
IS DEAD.

TO BE CONCLUDED.





It's now two days until Lex Towers opens its doors.

There will be a fanfare worthy of kings and high potentates of old, as Luthor cuts the ribbon across the building's doors.

Luthor is obsessed with this particular project. More so than merely its commercial worth, it's apparent from everything Luthor has said in interviews on the matter that he sees this building as some kind of monument.

To whom, you may ask?

To Luthor, of course, aspiring to best the pharaohs who had to wait for death until some mighty edifice was constructed in their name.

But even as the opening day nears, Luthor must be worrying. For despite what we thought, the crimes and disasters continue.

We had thought Edward Carlisle was the U.L.T.R.A. Humanite. In reality, inventor Morgan Wilde had transferred his dying consciousness into Carlisle's body, and then used Carlisle's position within LexCorp to cause wide-scale mayhem in Metropolis.

But Carlisle had died, and we presumed, perhaps foolishly, the threat of the U.L.T.R.A. Humanite had perished too.



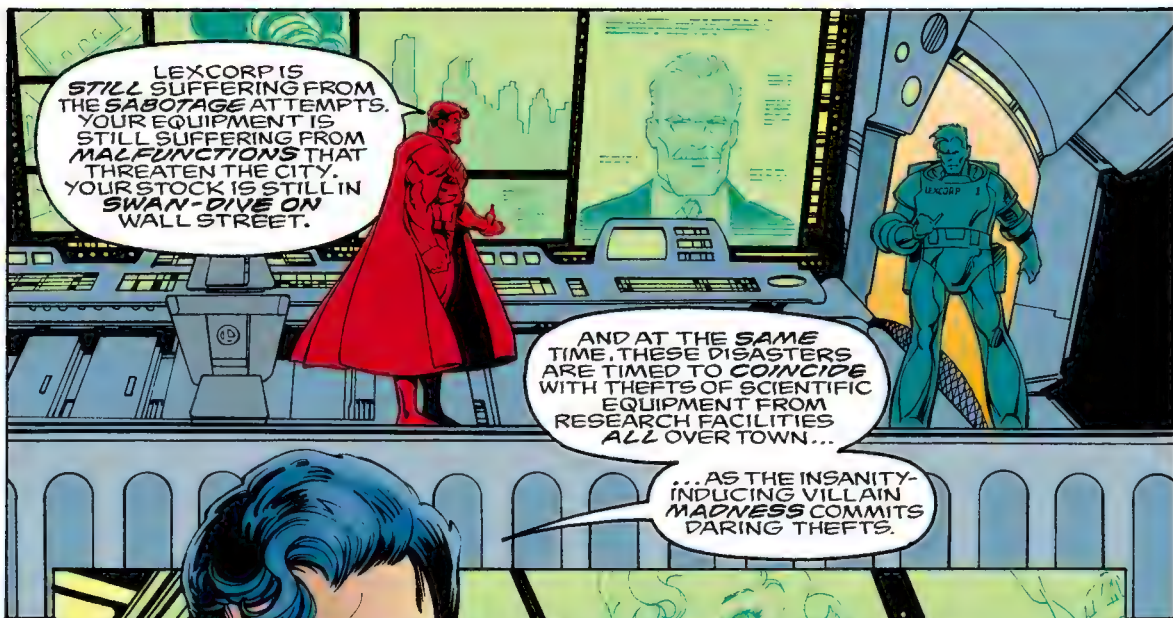
No. Far from it.

U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE PART III

mad scientist

JAMES ROBINSON - WRITER • VAL SEMEIKS - PENCILLER • PAUL NEARY - INKER
JANICE CHIANG - LETTERER • KEVIN SOMERS - COLORIST
DIGITAL CHAMELEON - SEPARATIONS • MAUREEN MCTIGUE - ASSISTANT
JOEY CAVALIERI - MAD SCIENTIST • GLEN ORBIK - COVER PAINTING

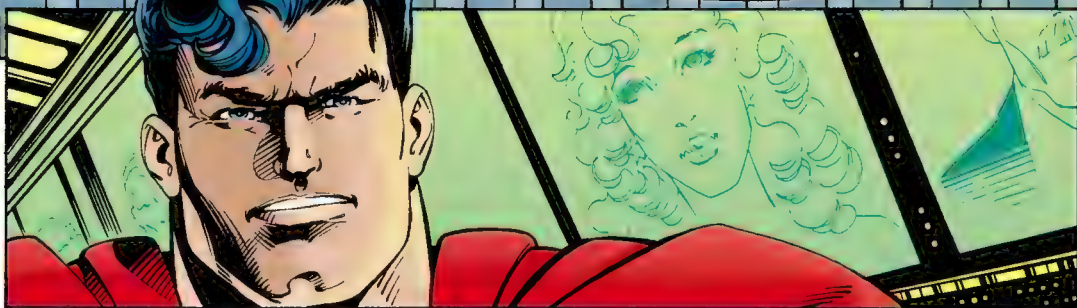
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER



LEXCORP IS STILL SUFFERING FROM THE SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS. YOUR EQUIPMENT IS STILL SUFFERING FROM MALFUNCTIONS THAT THREATEN THE CITY. YOUR STOCK IS STILL IN SWAN-DIVE ON WALL STREET.

AND AT THE SAME TIME, THESE DISASTERS ARE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THEFTS OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT FROM RESEARCH FACILITIES ALL OVER TOWN...

...AS THE INSANITY-INDUCING VILLAIN MADNESS COMMITS DARING THEFTS.



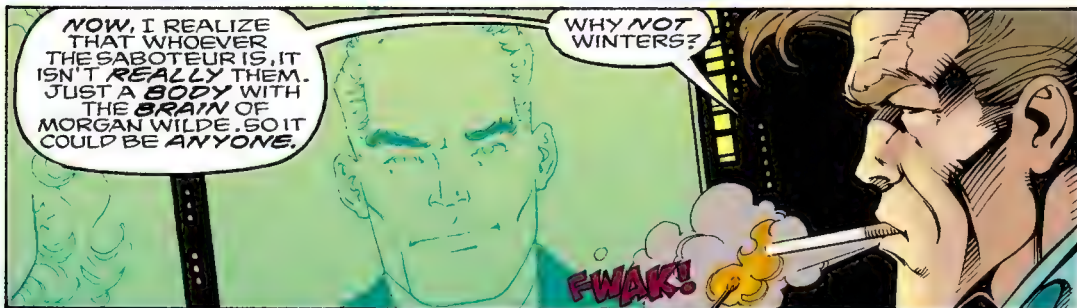
ALL THREE EVENTS COINCIDING AGAIN AND AGAIN.

BAD.

THAT'S ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE IT, SURE. WE'RE BACK AT SQUARE ONE.

NO. NOT REALLY. I TOLD YOU BEFORE I HAD SUSPECTS... THREE AT THE TIME, CARLISLE, MERRITT, AND DOLORES WINTERS.

BEFORE I KNEW ABOUT THE U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE TECHNOLOGY, I THOUGHT WINTERS WASN'T UP TO THE BRAIN POWER OF SABOTAGING LEXCORP.



NOW, I REALIZE THAT WHOEVER THE SABOTEUR IS, IT ISN'T REALLY THEM. JUST A BODY WITH THE BRAIN OF MORGAN WILDE. SO IT COULD BE ANYONE.

WHY NOT WINTERS?

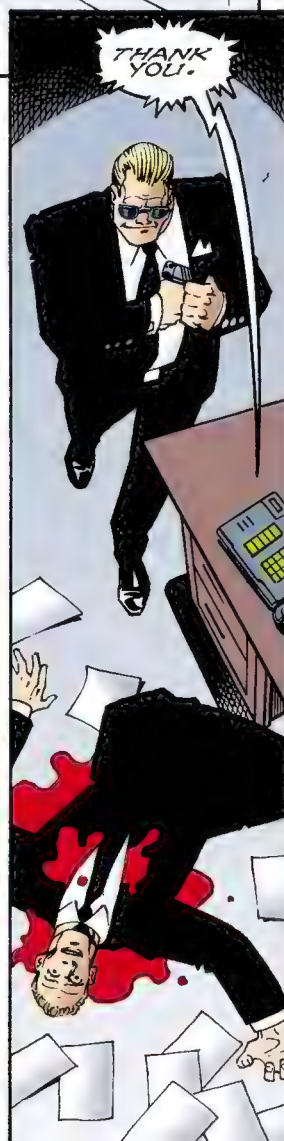
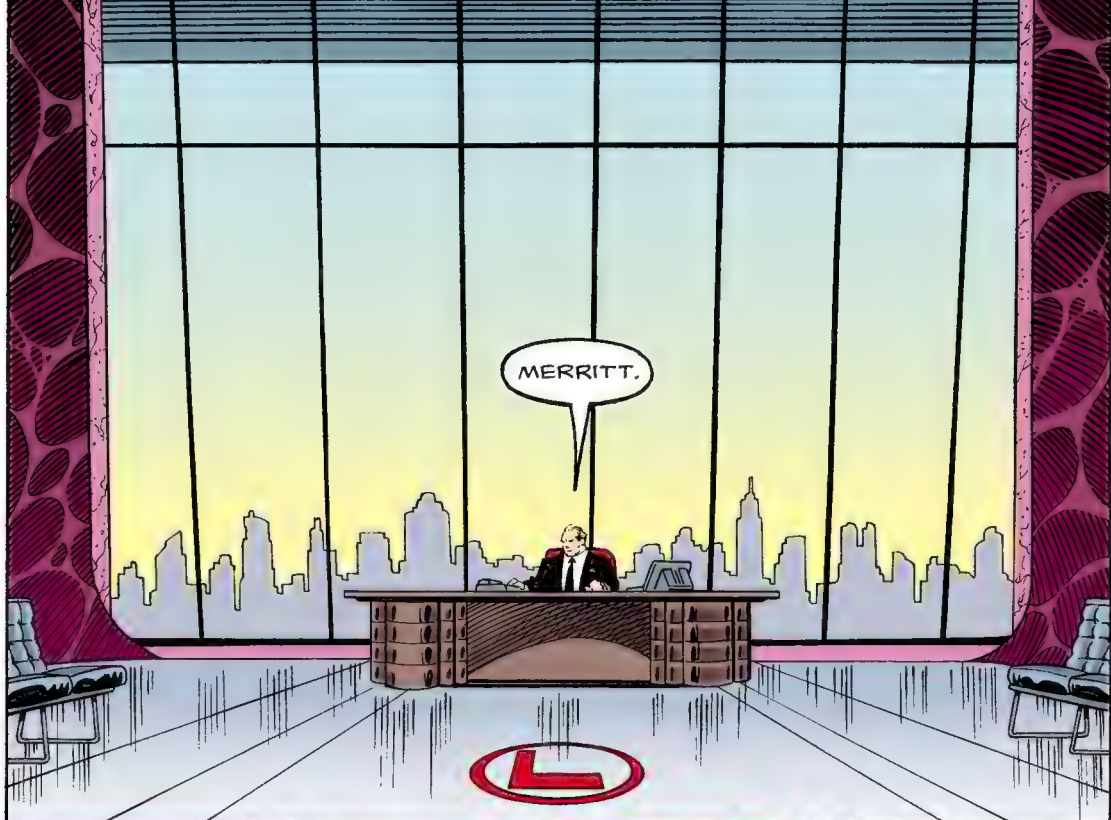
FWAK!



SO WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT IT?

DO? I ALREADY DID IT. I TOLD MR. LUTHOR WHAT MY FINDINGS WERE. LET HIM DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE.

OH, I THINK I CAN GUESS.





MS. WINTERS.



WE HAVE TO LEAVE HERE... NOW... IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE.



HERE WE ARE, LOIS. AS ARRANGED.



I DON'T WANT LUTHOR KILLING SOMEONE JUST SO HE HAS PEACE OF MIND. NOW THE PAIR OF YOU HIDE OUT UNTIL THIS IS ALL OVER.

WHEN WILL THAT BE?

SOON, I THINK.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?



I DON'T, BUT AS LITTLE OF THIS LIFE AS I'VE LED SO FAR, IT'S ALREADY GIVING ME INSTINCTS. I'M CONVINCED THAT LEX LUTHOR TOWERS... ITS OPENING TOMORROW WILL BE THE END OF THINGS.

WHY?

BECAUSE IT'S THE MOST
NOTEWORTHY OF LUTHOR'S CURRENT
ENDEAVORS, YET IT'S THE ONE THING THAT
HASN'T SUFFERED FROM ANY OF
THE U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE'S
INTERFERENCE.

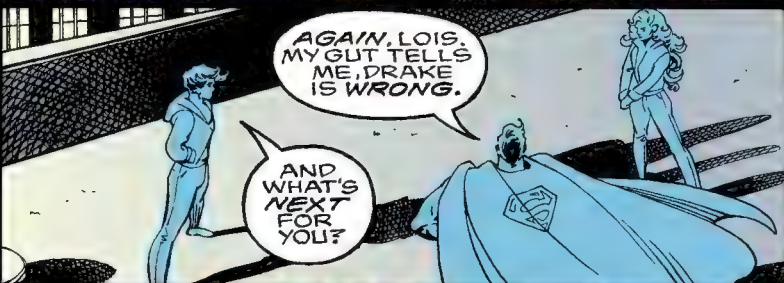


IT'S AS IF HE WANTS
THE BUILDING FINISHED.
AND WHY WANT THAT
IF NOT TO THEN EMPLOY
THE BUILDING AGAINST
LUTHOR IN SOME
SPECTACULAR
FASHION?

HOW DO
YOU KNOW
MS. WINTERS
ISN'T
MORGAN
WILDE?

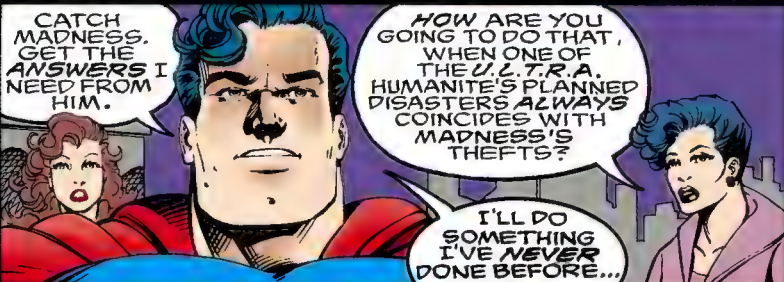
DRAKE
COULD BE RIGHT
AND SHE'S
THE U.L.T.R.A.
HUMANITE?

NO! I'M
NOT--



AGAIN, LOIS.
MY GUT TELLS
ME, DRAKE
IS WRONG.

AND WHAT'S
NEXT
FOR YOU?



CATCH
MADNESS.
GET THE
ANSWERS I
NEED FROM
HIM.

HOW ARE YOU
GOING TO DO THAT,
WHEN ONE OF
THE U.L.T.R.A.
HUMANITE'S PLANNED
DISASTERS ALWAYS
COINCIDES WITH
MADNESS'S
THEFTS?

I'LL DO
SOMETHING
I'VE NEVER
DONE BEFORE...



...ASK
A FAVOR.



AH, SUPERMAN!

HELLO AGAIN!

I'M GOING CRAZY WANNA GO RIG

GOTTA SAY I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU...

... ESPECIALLY SINCE AT THIS VERY MOMENT THE SODER BLIMP THAT REGULARLY HOVERS OVER METROPOLIS IS DUE TO COME CRASHING DOWN.

THAT'S NOT MY CONCERN...

NOT TONIGHT.

KILL HIM!

DEATH TO THE CAPED ONE!

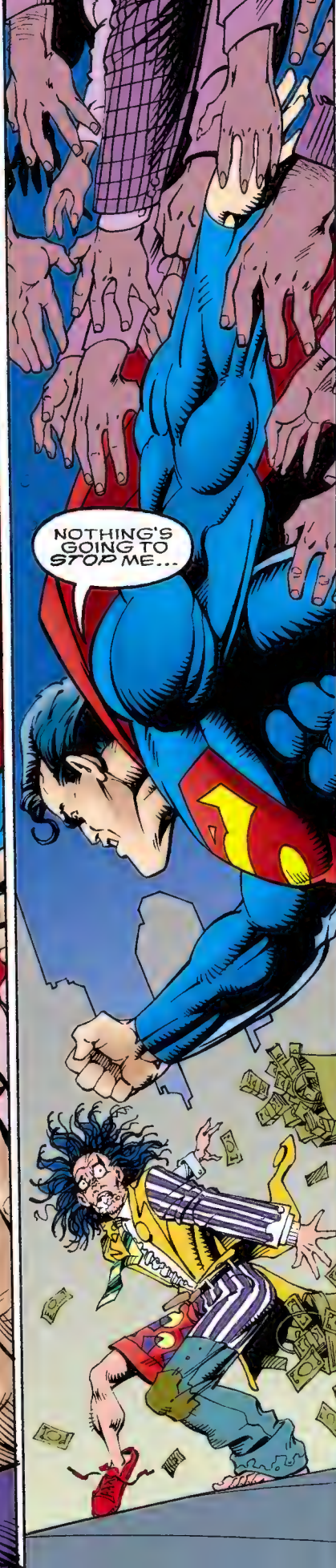
MUNCHY CRUNCHY!

MUSCLES! HATE MUSC--

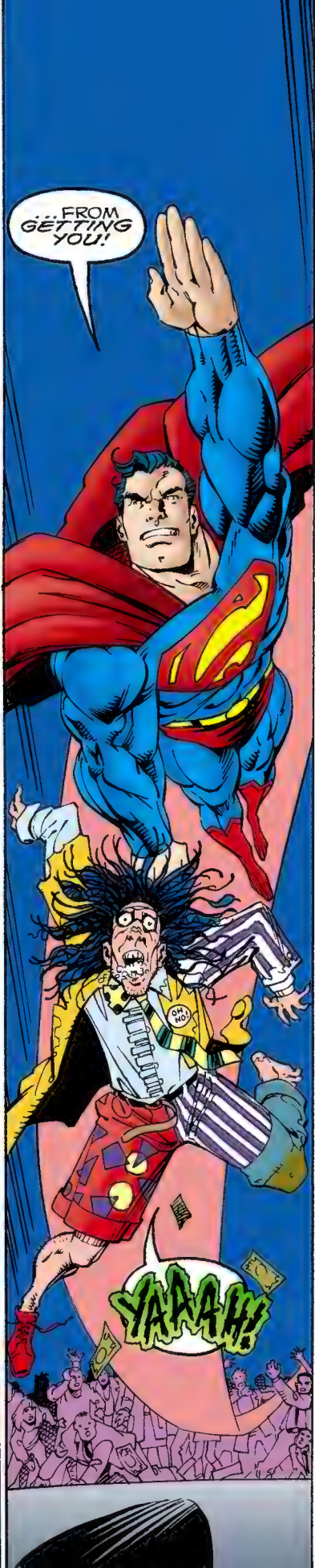
DEATH TO--



NOTHING'S
GOING TO
STOP ME,
MADNESS!



NOTHING'S
GOING TO
STOP ME...

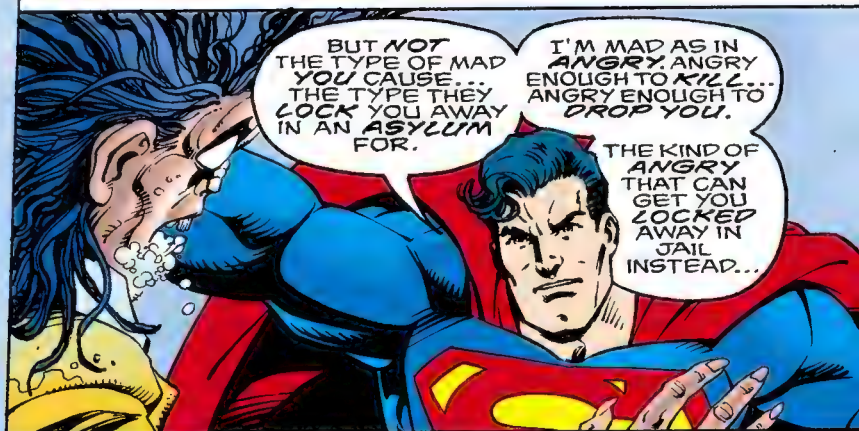


...FROM
GETTING
YOU!

YAAAAH!

NOW...

...I'M
MAD.



BUT NOT
THE TYPE OF MAD
YOU CAUSE...
THE TYPE THEY
LOCK YOU AWAY
IN AN ASYLUM
FOR.

I'M MAD AS IN
ANGRY. ANGRY
ENOUGH TO KILL...
ANGRY ENOUGH TO
DROP YOU.

THE KIND OF
ANGRY
THAT CAN
GET YOU
LOCKED
AWAY IN
JAIL
INSTEAD...



...EXCEPT
THERE ISN'T
A JAIL THAT
COULD HOLD
ME, SO WHY
SHOULD I
WORRY ABOUT
THAT?

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?
MONEY?

YOU
INSULT
ME.

THEN
WHAT?

OH, THINK
HARD. I'M
SURE YOU
CAN
GUESS.



THE ONLY THING
I DON'T GET, WHEN
I TOLD YOU ABOUT
THE BLIMP GOING DOWN,
YOU DIDN'T CARE.

OH I CARE.
BUT LIKE I SAID...
NOT MY CONCERN TODAY.
I CONTACTED ANOTHER
SUPER-HERO. I ASKED
FOR HIS HELP...

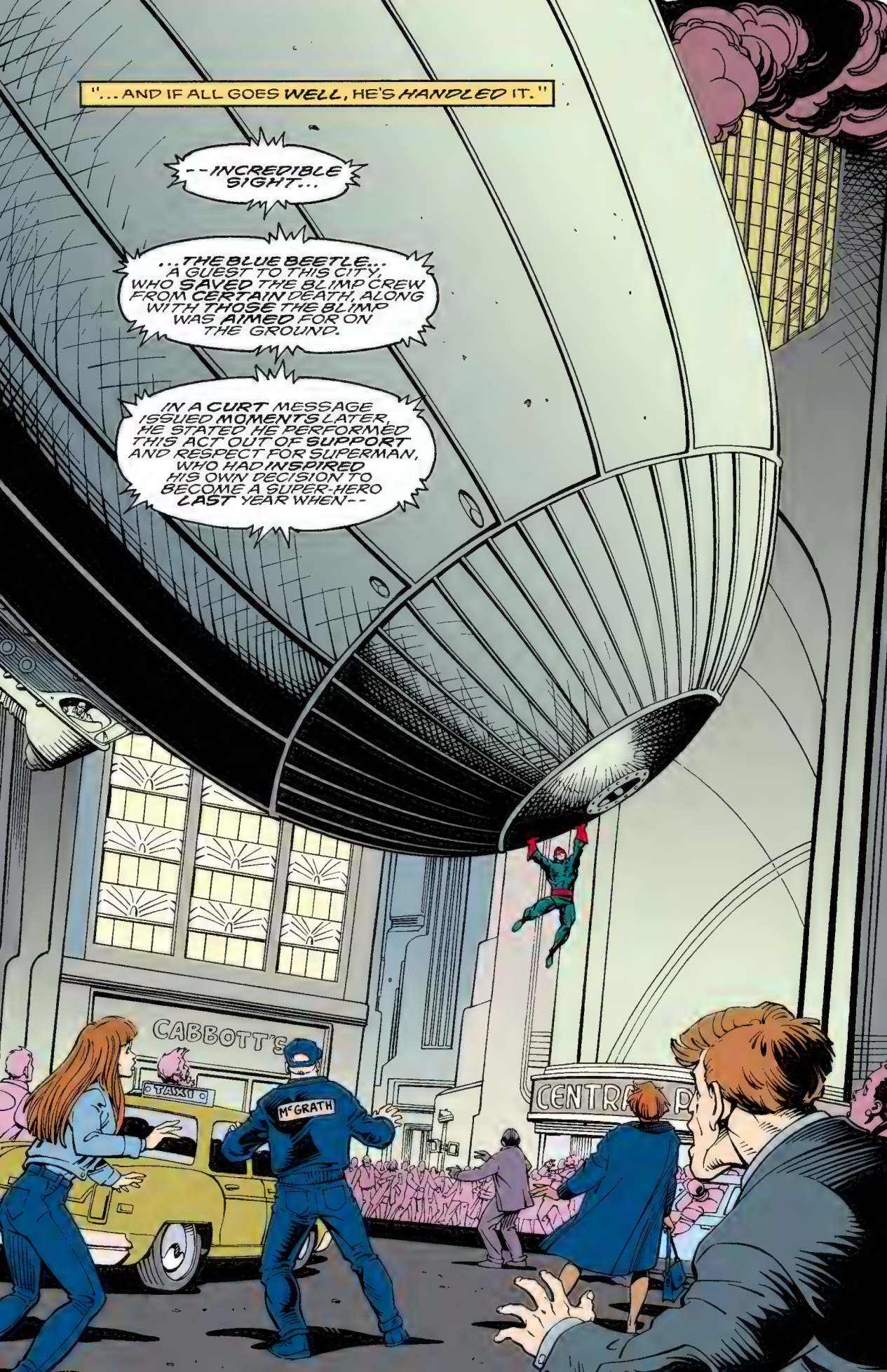


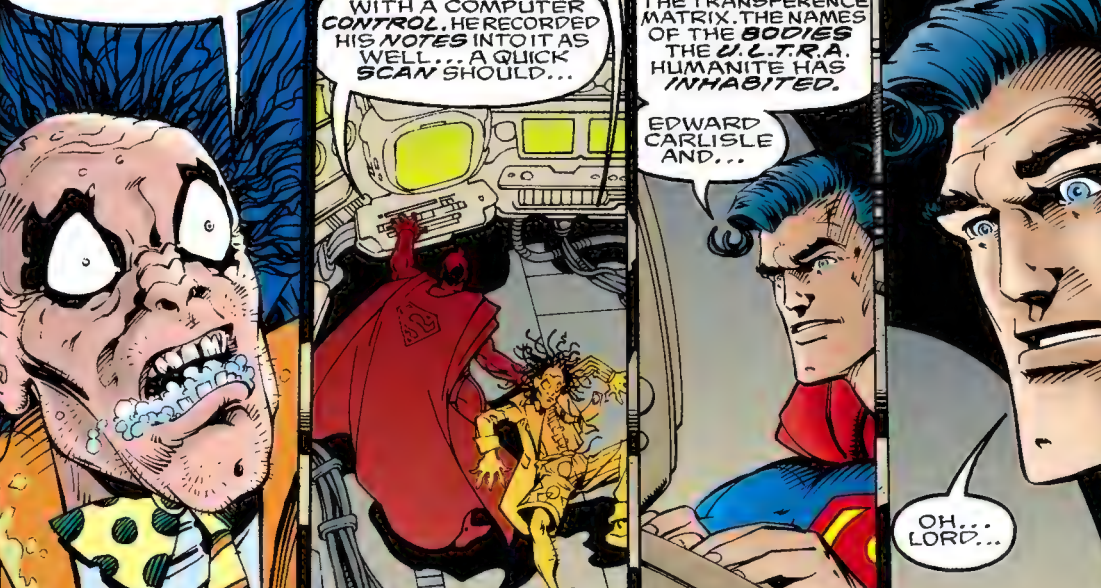
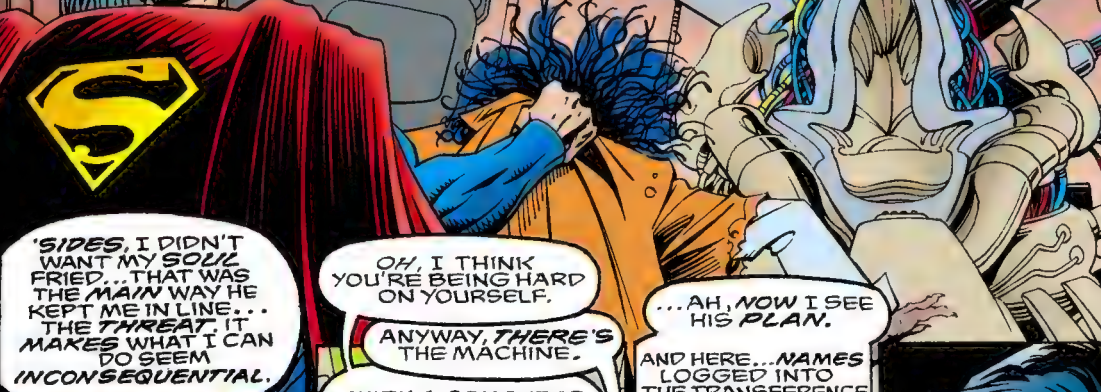
"...AND IF ALL GOES WELL, HE'S HANDLED IT."

--INCREDIBLE
SIGHT--

...THE BLUE BEETLE...
A GUEST TO THIS CITY,
WHO SAVED THE BLIMP CREW
FROM CERTAIN DEATH, ALONG
WITH THOSE THE BLIMP
WAS AIMED FOR ON
THE GROUND.

IN A CURT MESSAGE
ISSUED MOMENTS LATER,
HE STATED HE PERFORMED
THIS ACT OUT OF SUPPORT
AND RESPECT FOR SUPERMAN,
WHO HAD INSPIRED
HIS OWN DECISION TO
BECOME A SUPER-HERO
LAST YEAR WHEN--





"...I HAVE TO
FIND LOIS."

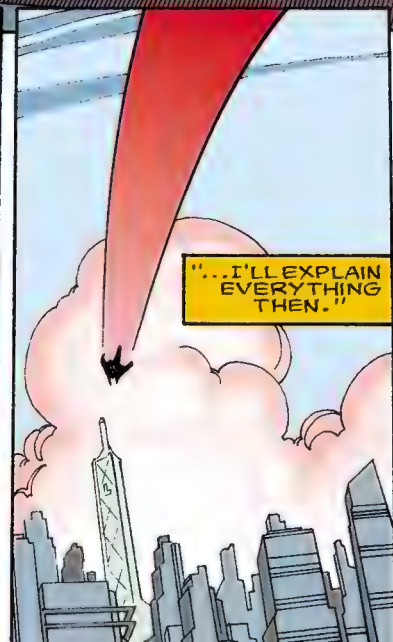
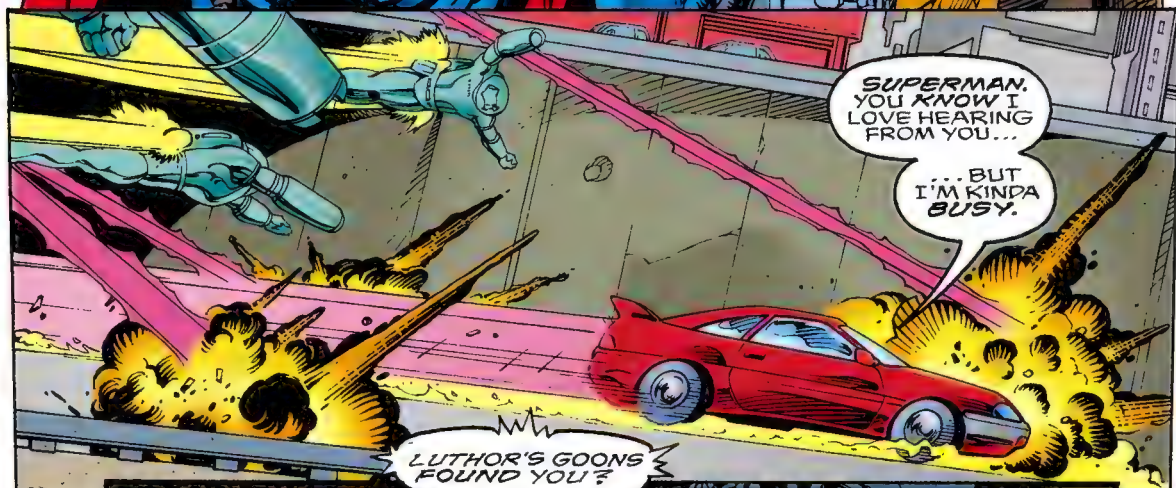
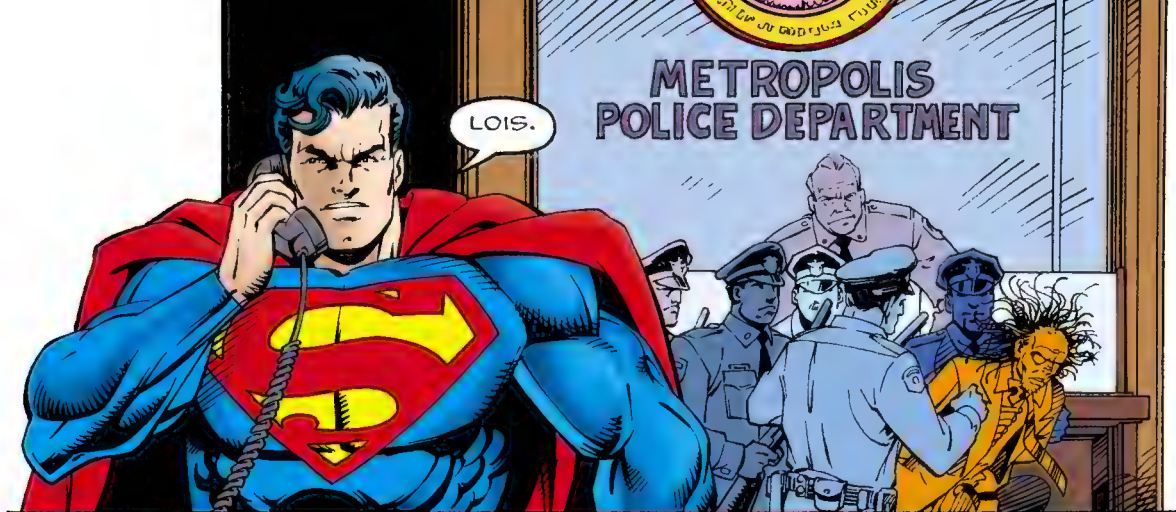
THEY'RE
GAINING
ON US.

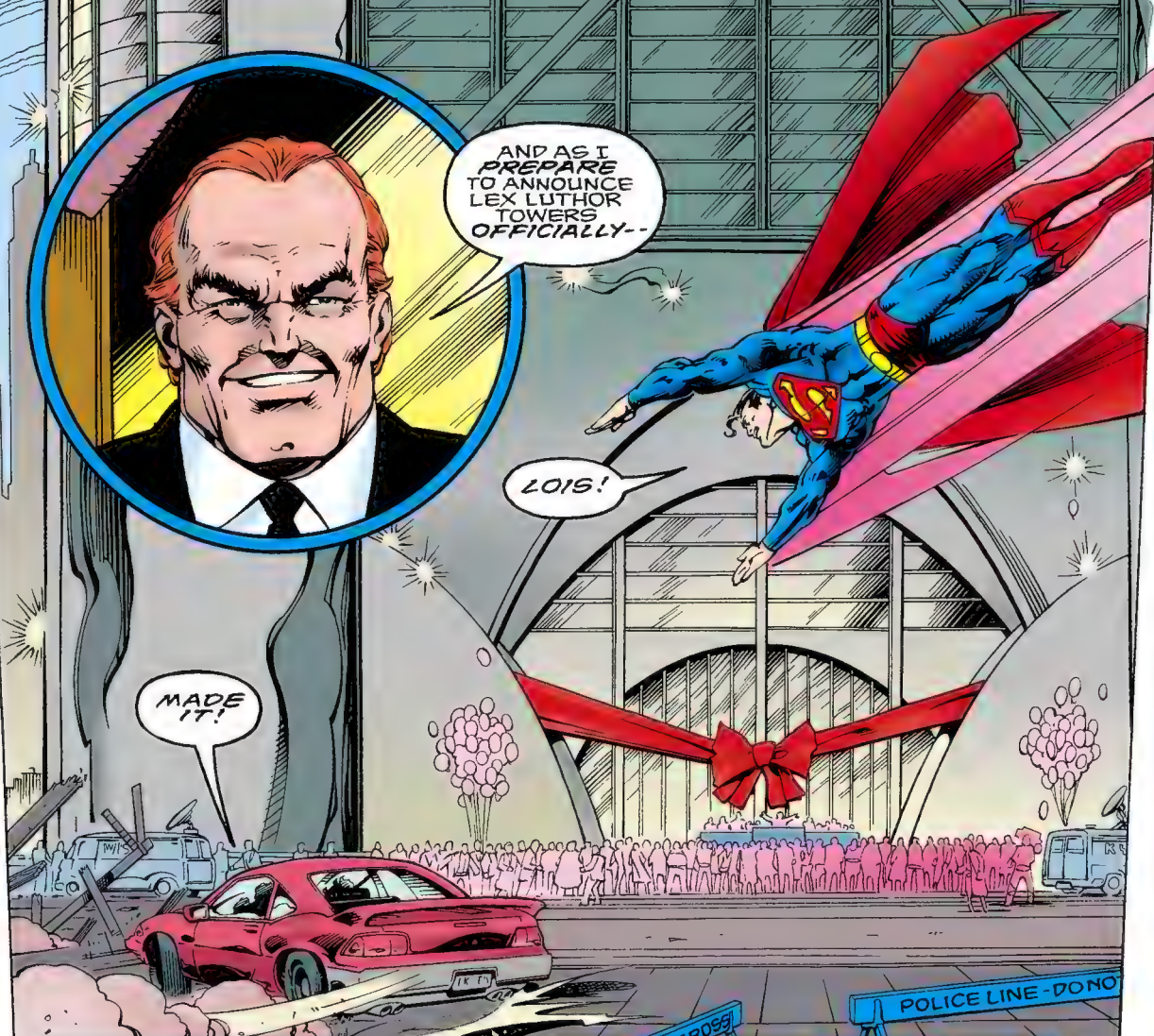
I NOTICED.

IF WE HIT
A TRAFFIC
JAM WE'RE
DEAD.

GET THE PHONE.

IT'S
FOR
YOU.





AND AS I PREPARE TO ANNOUNCE LEX LUTHOR TOWERS OFFICIALLY--

LOIS!

MADE IT!

POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

YEAH? YOU GONNA DO ANYTHING HERE? IN FRONT OF THE PRESS?

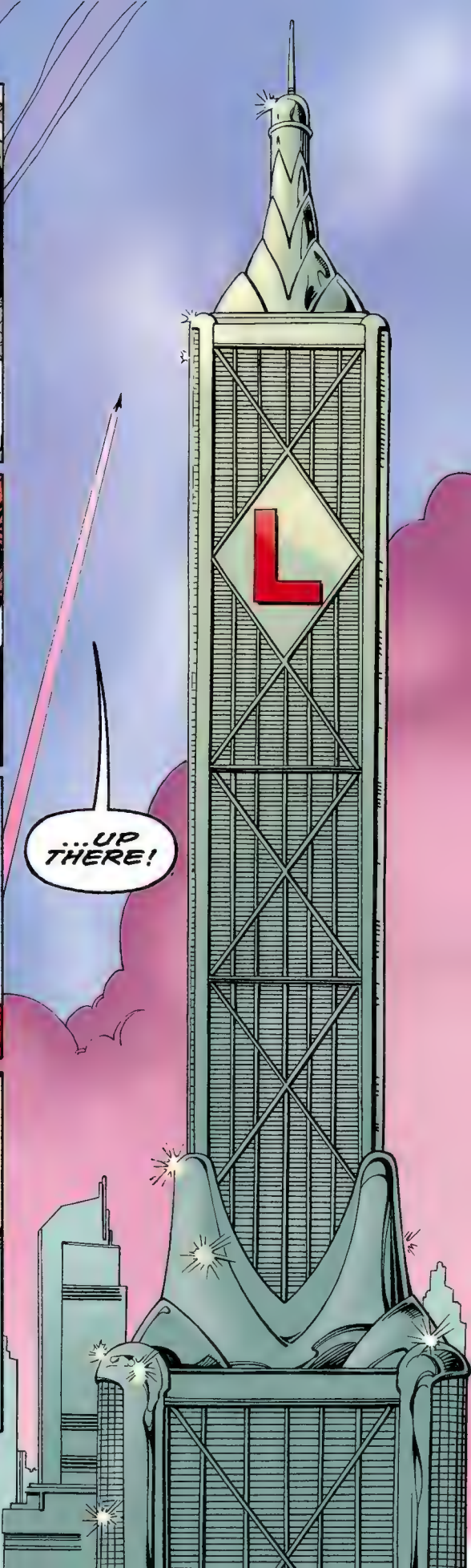
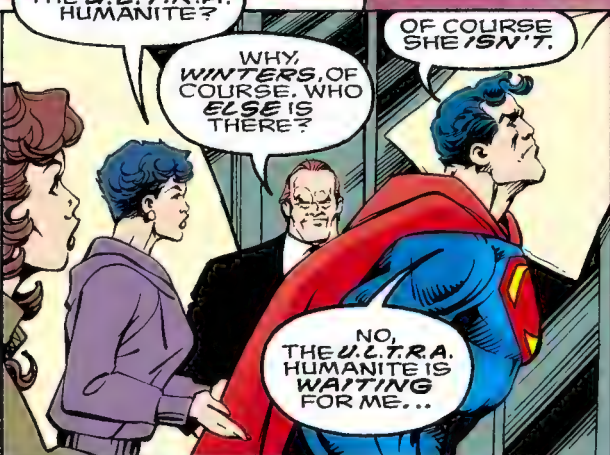
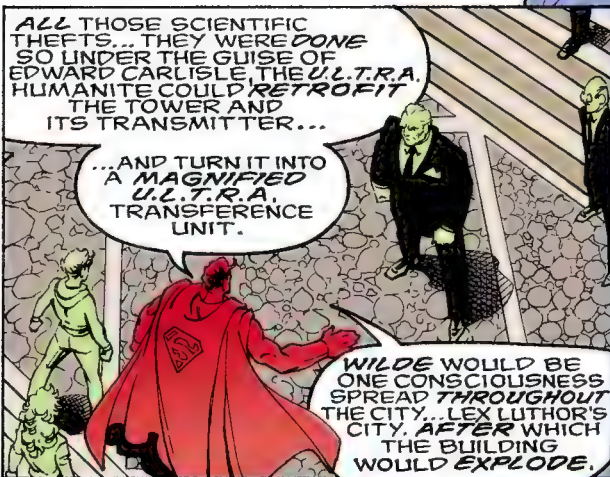
THEN THANKS FOR THE ESCORT, BOYS.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

I KNOW THE U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE'S GOAL, LUTHOR. I THINK YOU'LL FORGIVE MY INTERRUPTION WHEN I TELL YOU.

HE WANTS TO SPREAD HIS SOUL THROUGHOUT METROPOLIS.

WHEN THE TOWER OFFICIALLY OPENS, THE TRANSMISSION TOWER WILL BEGIN OPERATING.

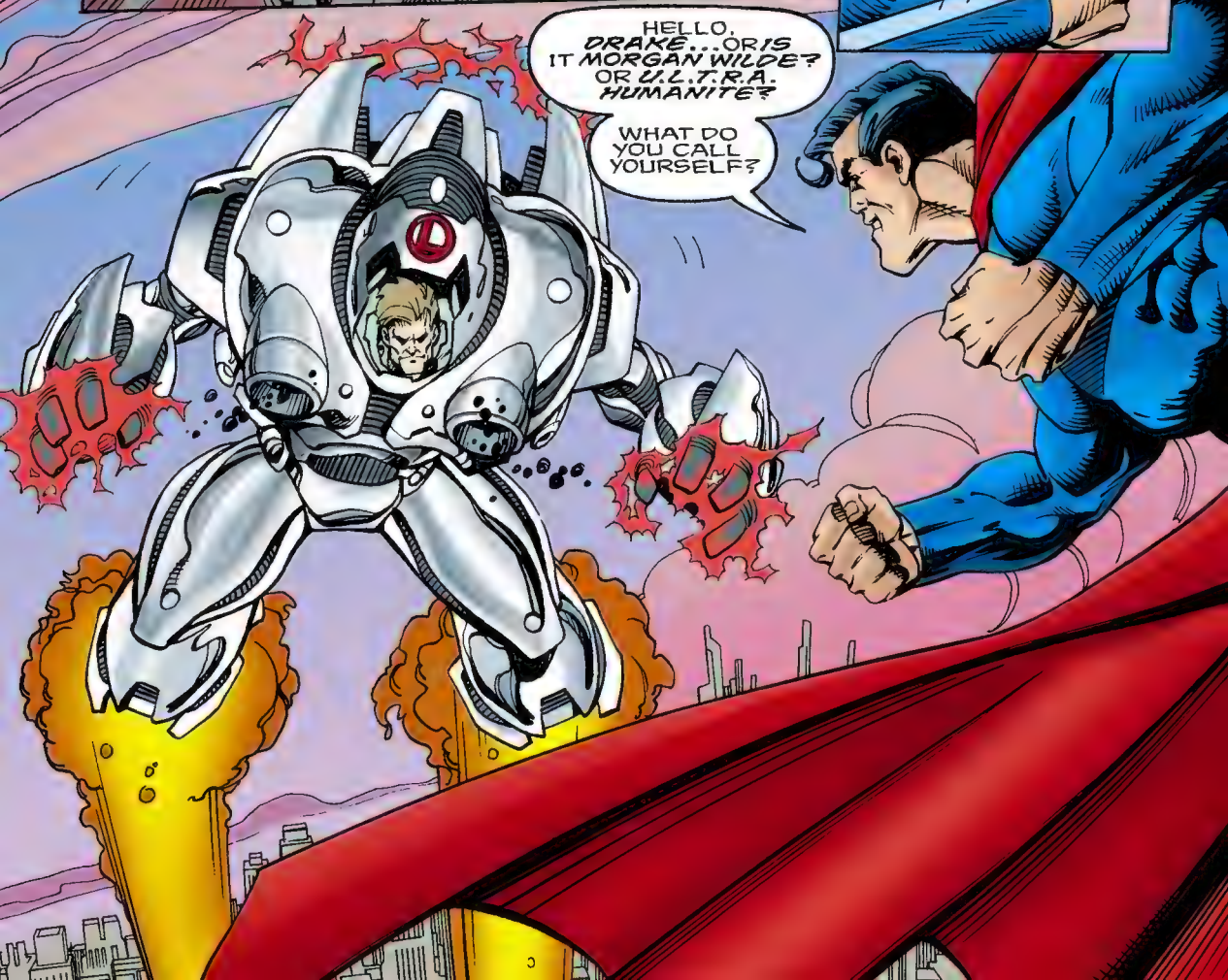




ONE CRISIS
AVERTED.
NOW--

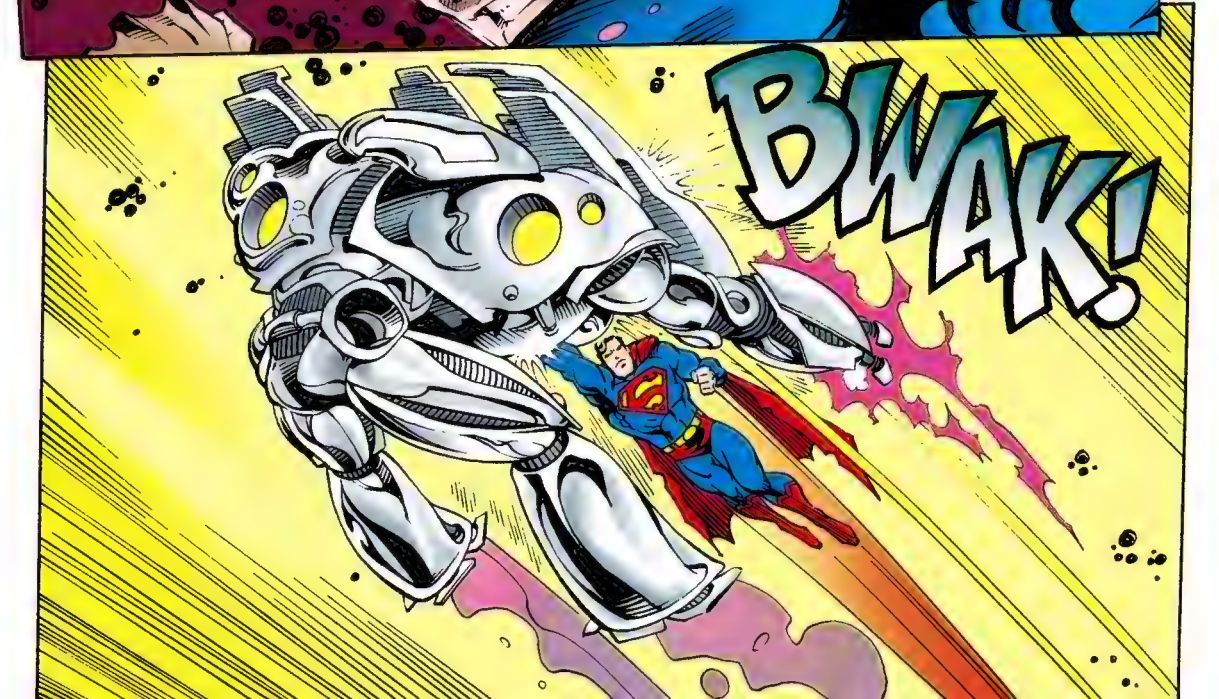
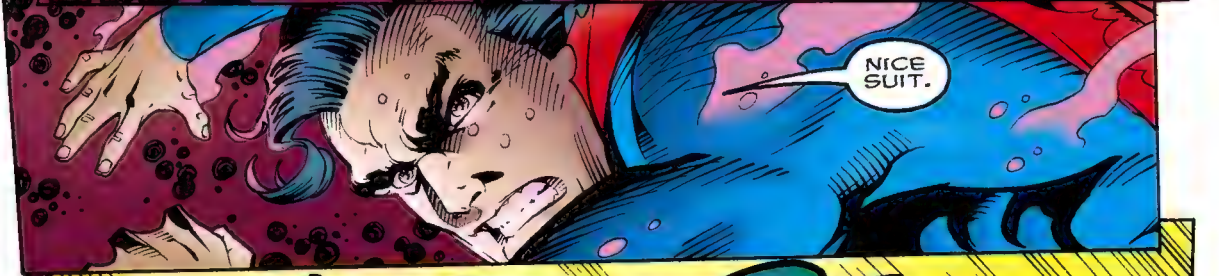
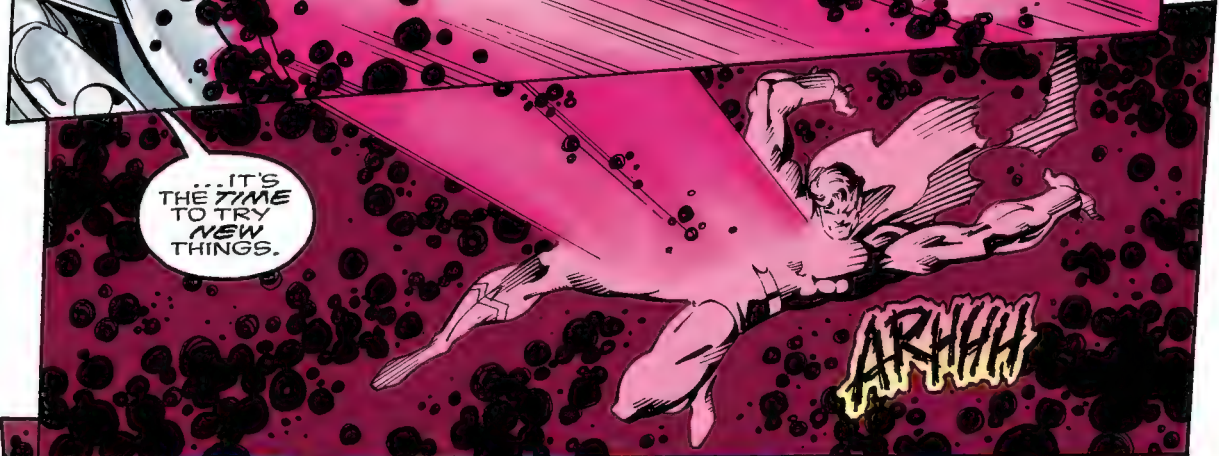
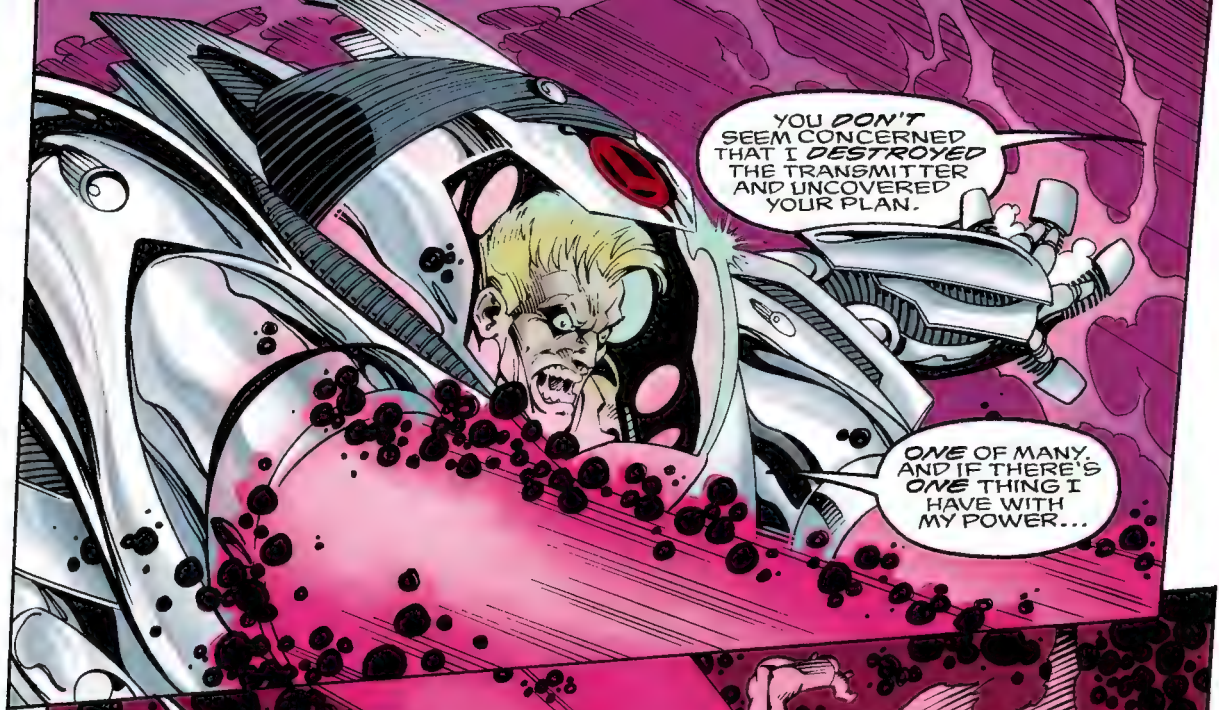


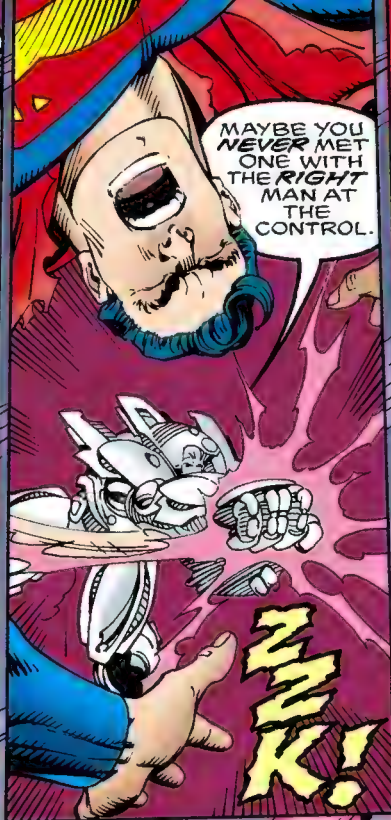
HELLO,
SUPERMAN.
CRISIS
TWO.

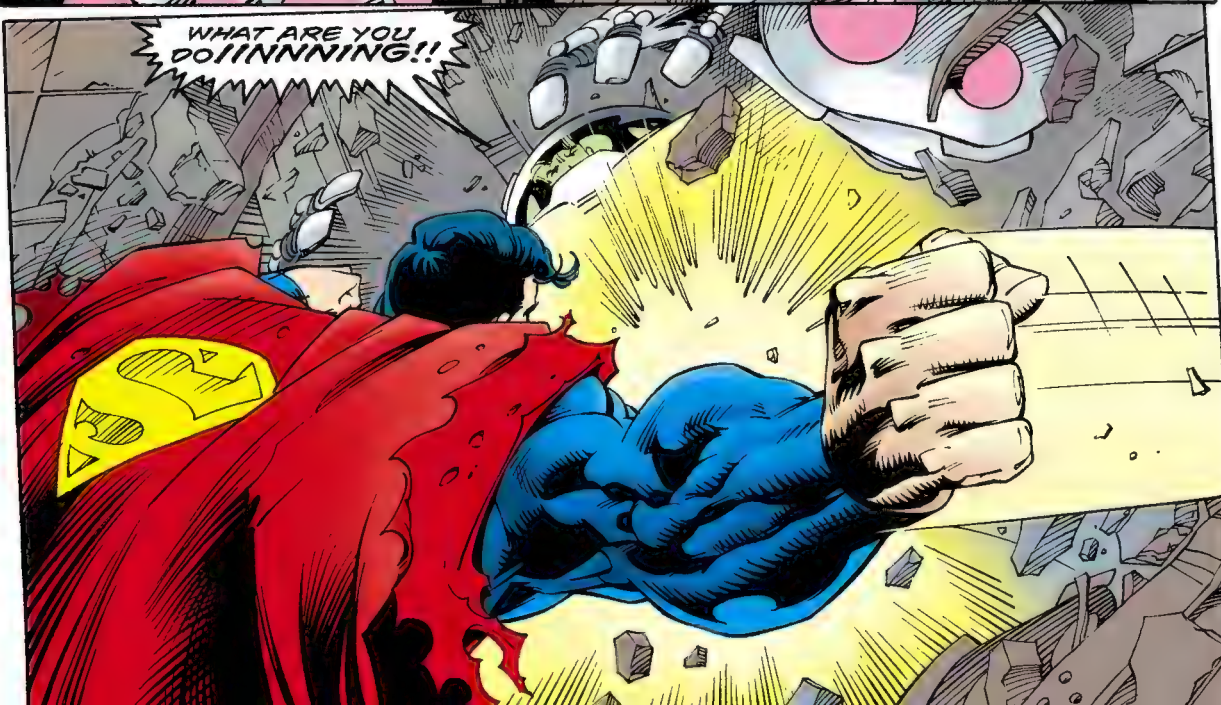
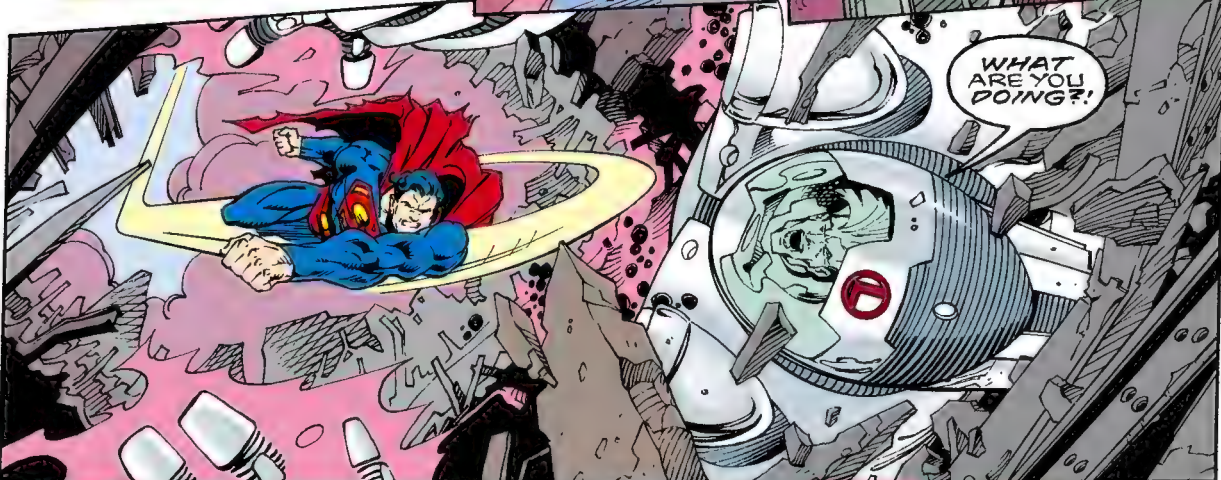
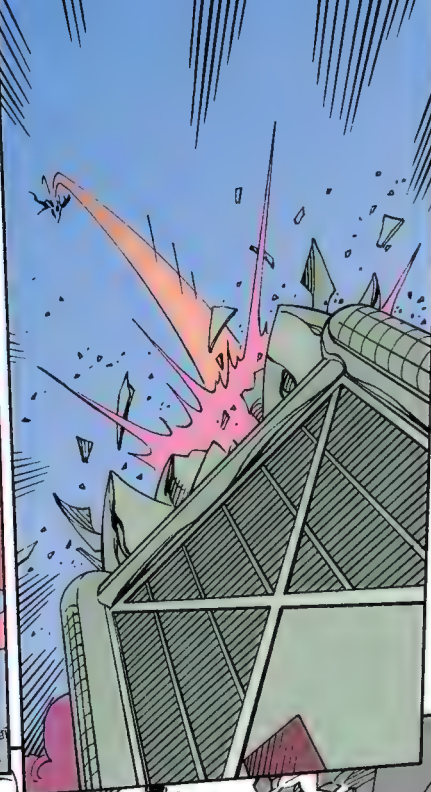
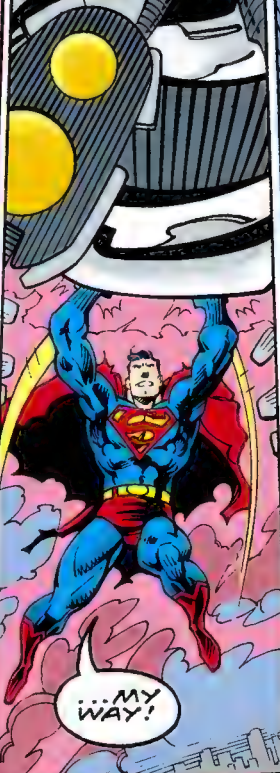
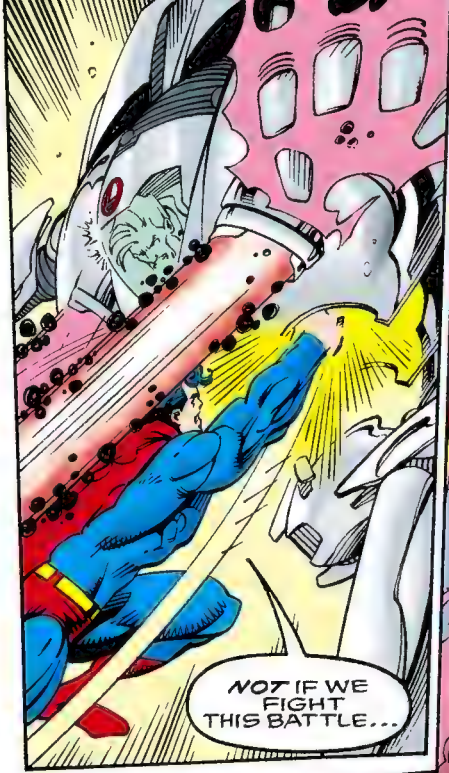


HELLO.
DRAKE...OR IS
IT MORGAN WILDE?
OR ULL.T.R.A.
HUMANITE?

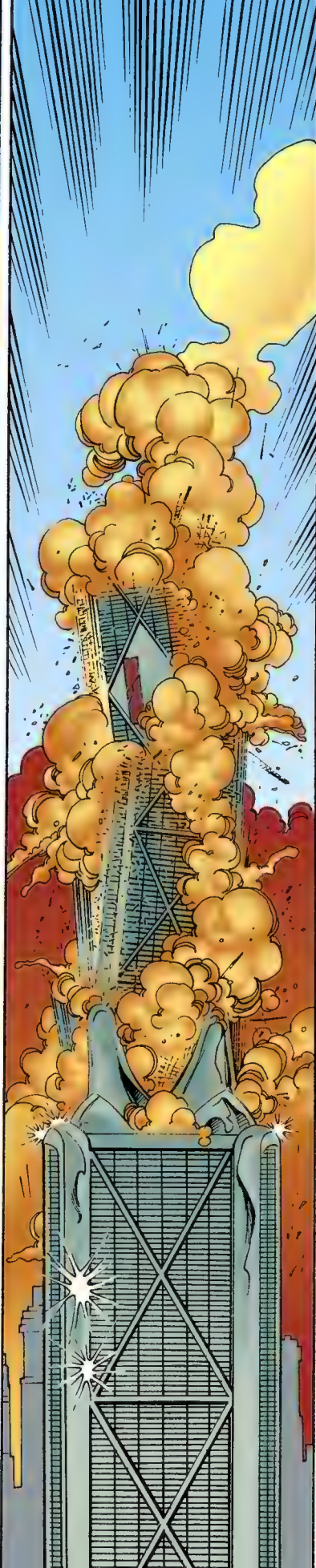
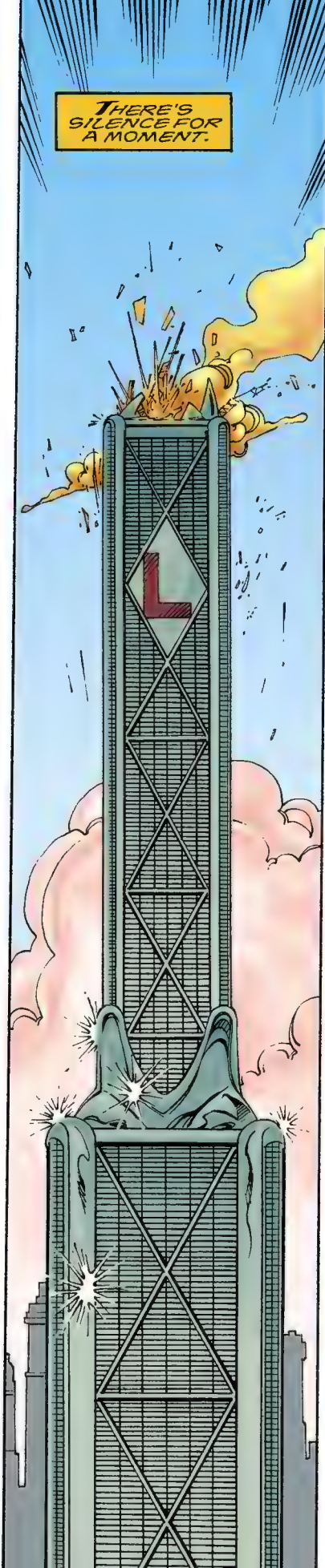
WHAT DO
YOU CALL
YOURSELF?







*THERE'S
SILENCE FOR
A MOMENT.*



AND THEN
SILENCE
AGAIN...

AGHAAK

YOU DID
IT, SUPERMAN. YOU
DEFEATED HIM.

I DIRECTED
THE FIGHT... THE DIRECTION
WE FOUGHT. I MADE SURE
WE COLLIDED WITH PILLARS
AND SUPPORT BEAMS ALL
THE WAY DOWN THROUGH
THE BUILDING.

I HOPED THAT
WOULD HELP MAKE
THE BUILDING FALL
IN ON ITSELF
AS IT BLEW.

AND IN
DOING SO,
YOU DESTROYED
MY DREAM,
SUPERMAN.

I SAVED LIVES.
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY
WOULD HAVE BEEN HURT
IF THE BUILDING HAD
BLOWN OUTWARDS?

WHAT ABOUT
THE U.L.T.R.A.
HUMANITE?

I LOST
MY GRASP ON HIM
WHEN THE BUILDING
FELL ON US.

DO YOU
THINK HE'S
DEAD?

I KNOW ONE WAY
TO FIND OUT.

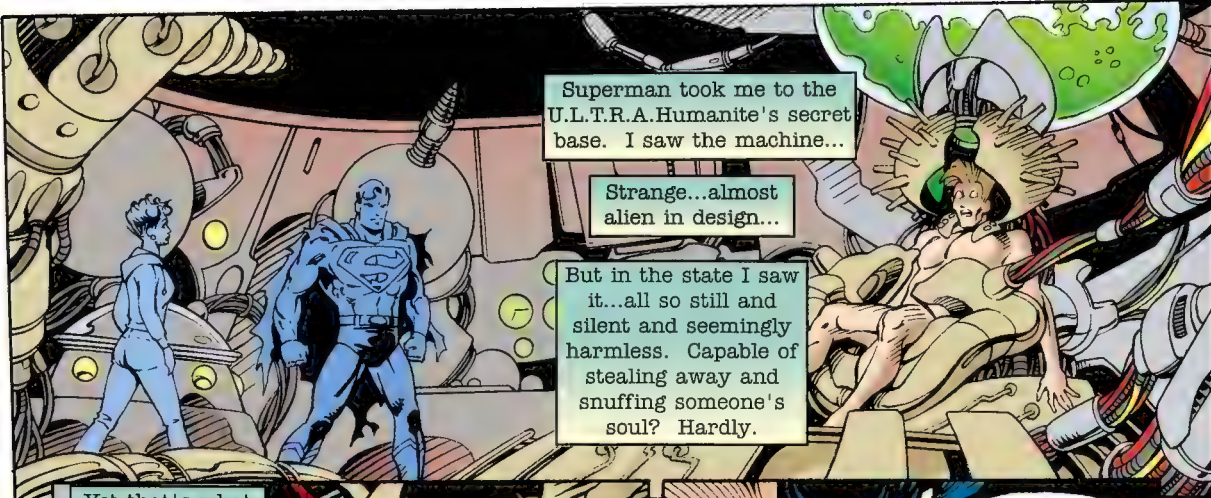
THIS ISN'T
THE END,
SUPERMAN.

I'LL BUILD ANOTHER
BUILDING. DO YOU
HEAR ME?

ON THIS VERY SITE,
A BUILDING THAT
EVERYONE WILL
KNOW IS MINE.
WHETHER ON
THE GROUND OR
LOOKING DOWN FROM
THE AIR...

...THEY'LL
KNOW THAT
BUILDING... AND
THE CITY
IT'S IN...

...BELONGS
TO LEX
LUTHOR!



Superman took me to the U.L.T.R.A. Humanite's secret base. I saw the machine...

Strange...almost alien in design...

But in the state I saw it...all so still and silent and seemingly harmless. Capable of stealing away and snuffing someone's soul? Hardly.

Yet that's what it had done.

IF DRAKE'S BODY WASN'T PROOF ENOUGH, THE LOG SHOWS ONE MORE TRANSFER... MINUTES AGO.

THE U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION...IN THAT ACCURSED SUIT.

BUT HE WAS SMARTER THIS TIME, HE ERASED THE RECORD OF WHOSE IDENTITY HE TOOK.

YOU MEAN THE U.L.T.R.A. HUMANITE COULD BE ANYBODY?

I'M AFRAID SO, LOIS...

"...ANYBODY AT ALL."

I WAS RASH. MY PLAN ILL-CONCEIVED. BUT NOW I HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME. TO PLAN AGAIN.

I DON'T FEEL IT'S JUST LUTHOR WHO MUST PAY NOW, EITHER. SUPERMAN, TOO. AND LOIS LANE.

INDEED...

...WHY STOP THERE?



The end.

TEN YEARS AGO.

GOTHAM CITY.

I DON'T LIKE IT,
DONNIE-- THE SUN
AN' THE MOON IN
THE SKY AT THE
SAME TIME--!

METROPOLIS.

BOTH OF 'EM
UP THERE TOGETHER
-- IT AIN'T NATURAL,
LONNIE!

YOU'RE NOT
HERE TO WATCH
FOR METEORO-
LOGICAL EVENTS,
SAM!

YOU'LL FEEL
BETTER ONCE WE
GET OURSELVES A
WAYNE FOUNDATION
GRANT-- TRUST
ME!

WAYNE FOUNDATION
GRANT FOR
DELIVERIES

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER
ONCE WE'RE ROLLIN' IN
THOSE HIGH-DENSITY
LEXXCORP COMPUTER
CHIPS-- TRUST ME!

JUST KEEP
WATCHIN' THE
SKIES FOR ANY
...STRANGE
VISITORS,
BO.

UH...
DONNIE?

WHAT
NOW?

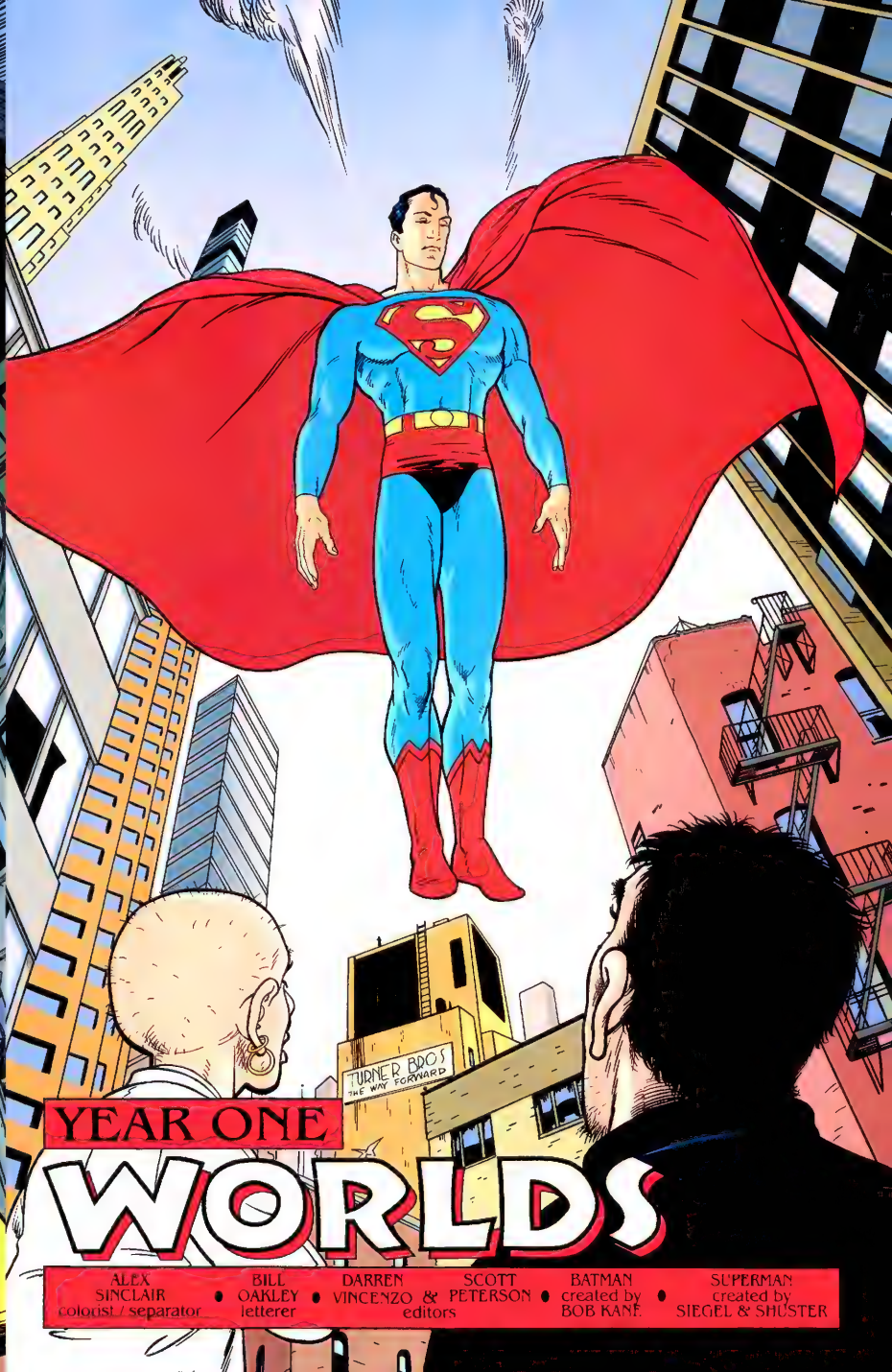
LOOK,
LONNIE-- UP
IN THE
SKY!



WORLD'S FINEST

DIFFERENT

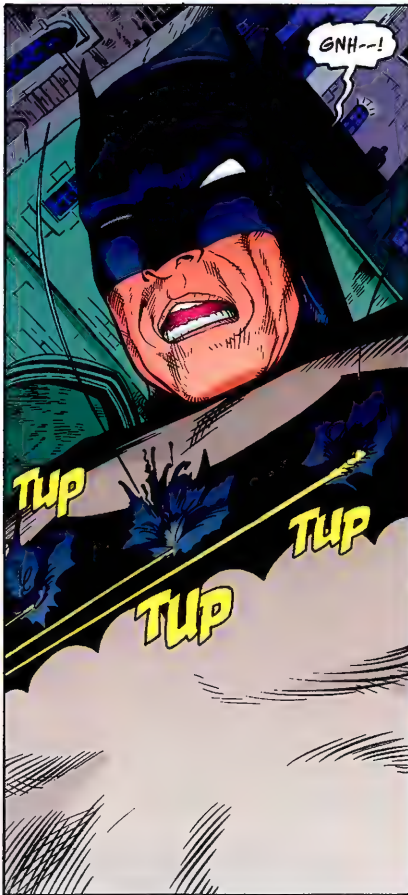
KARL KESEL, writer • DAVE TAYLOR, penciller • ROBERT CAMPANELLA, inker

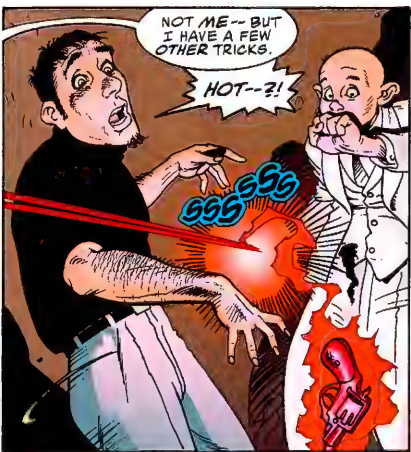


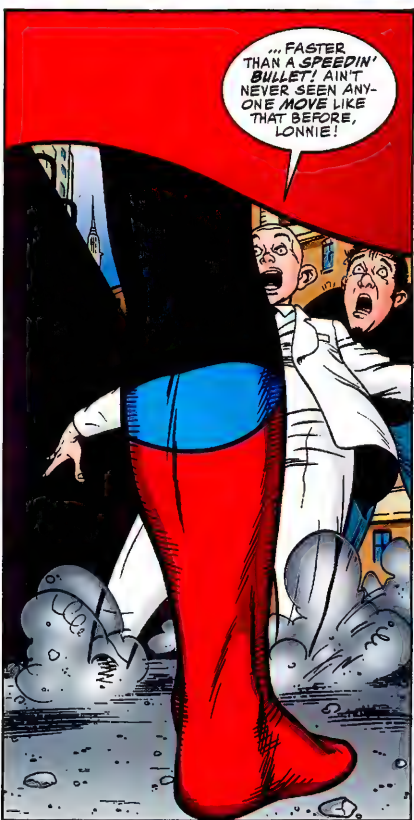
YEAR ONE

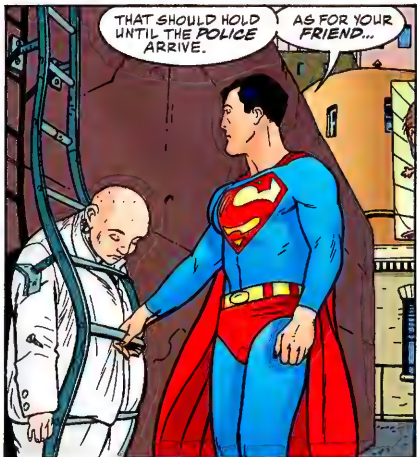
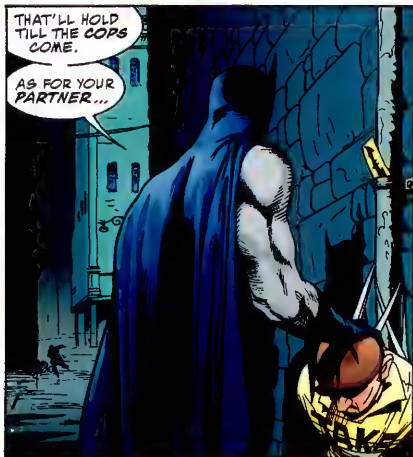
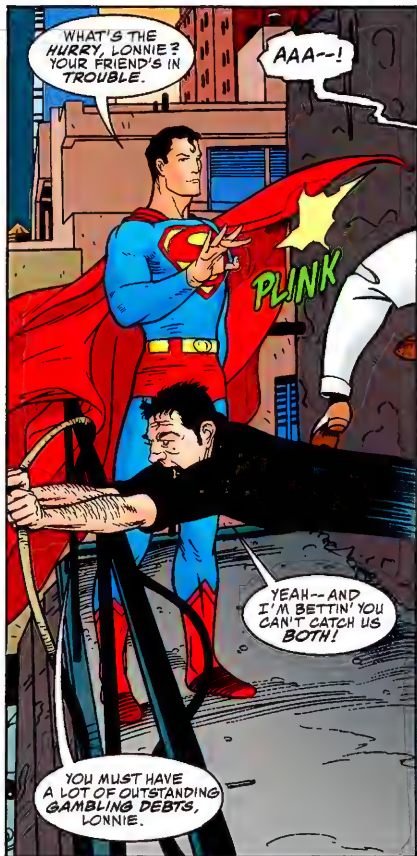
WORLDS

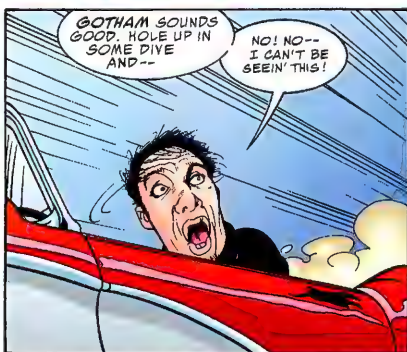
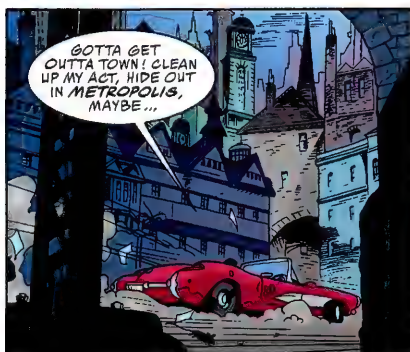
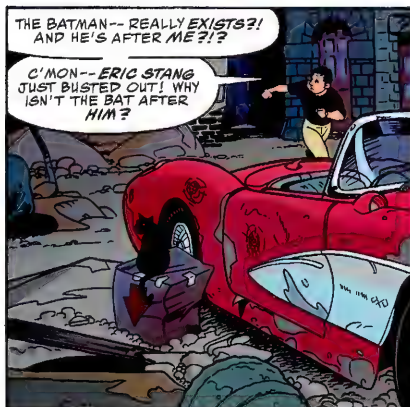
ALEX SINCLAIR • BILL OAKLEY • DARREN VINCENZO & SCOTT PETERSON • BATMAN created by BOB KANE • SUPERMAN created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER
colorist / separator • letterer • editors

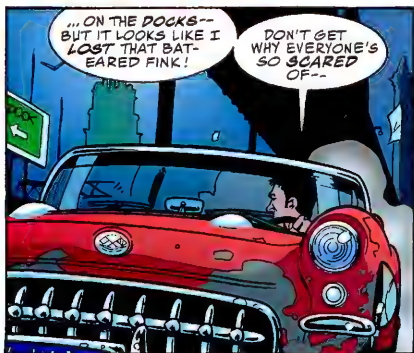
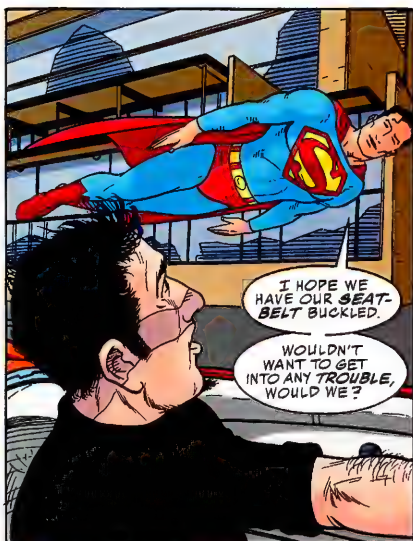


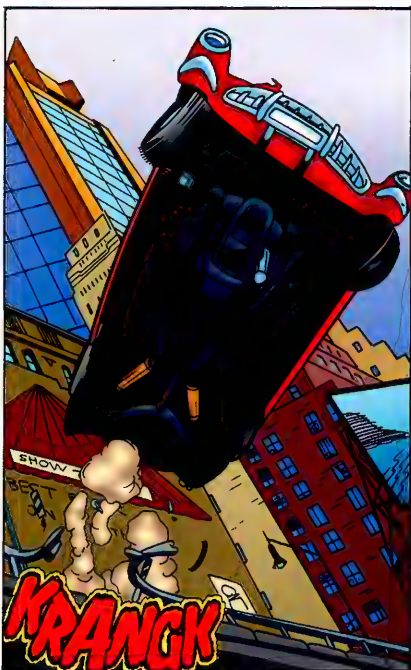
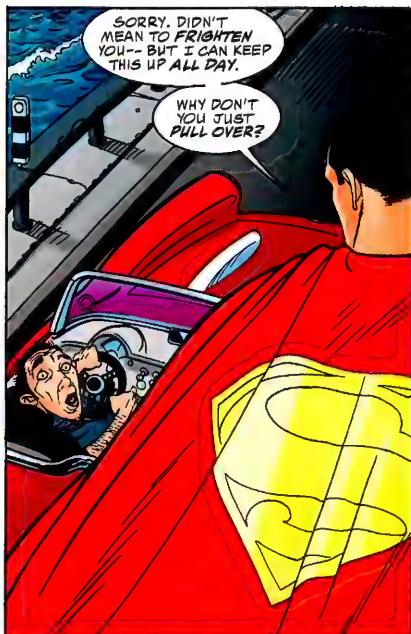


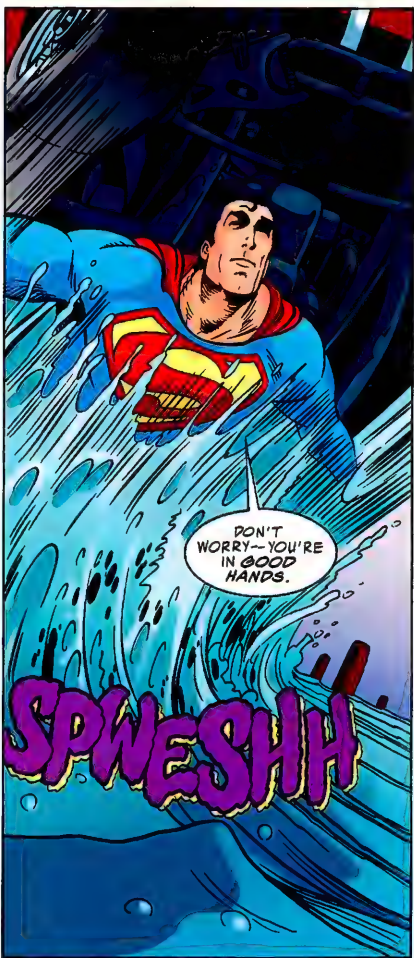
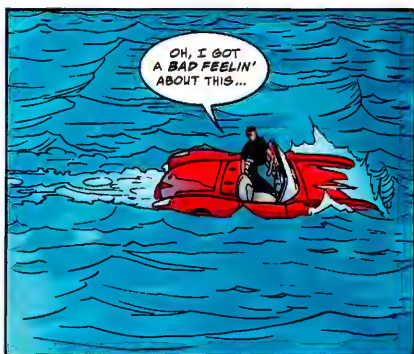
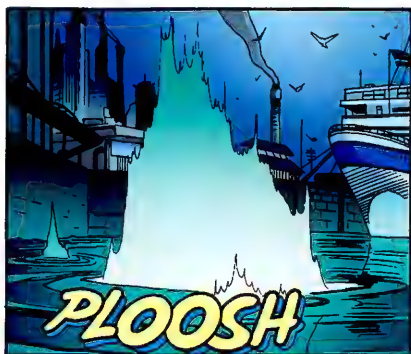


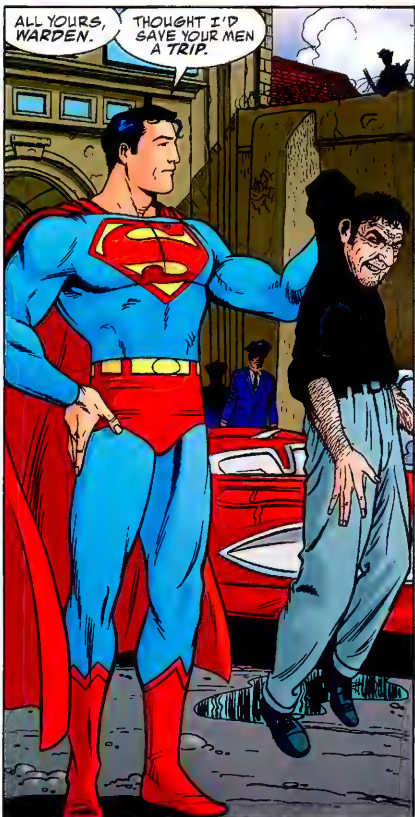


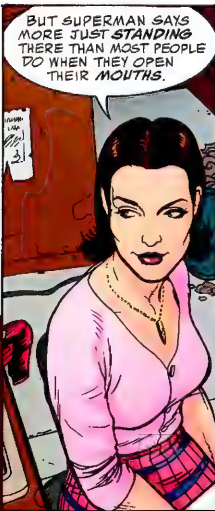
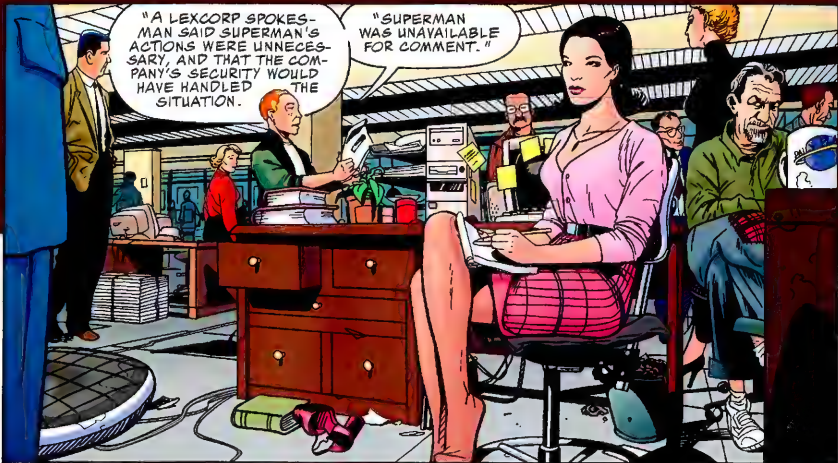


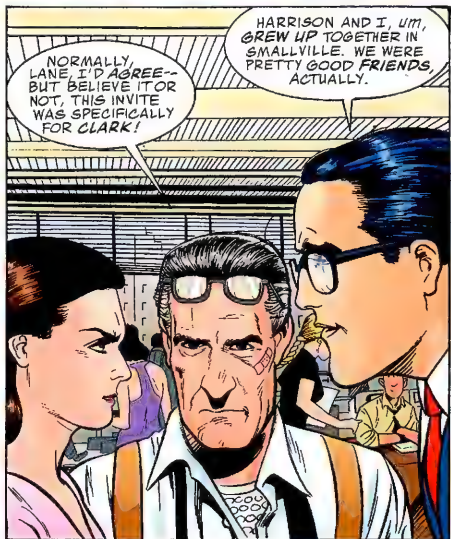
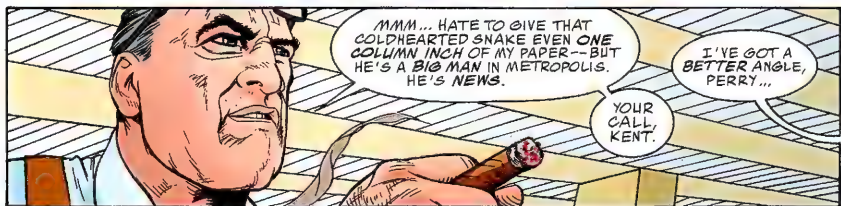


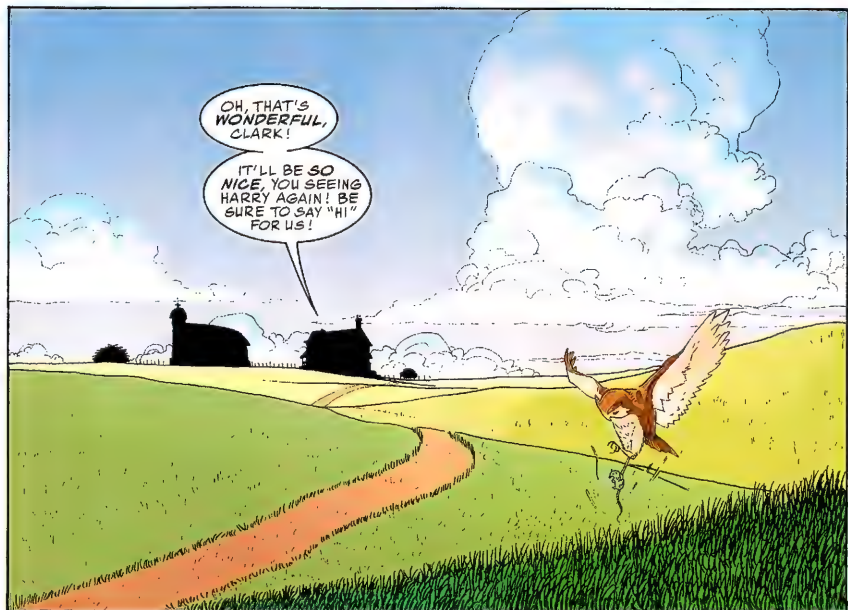


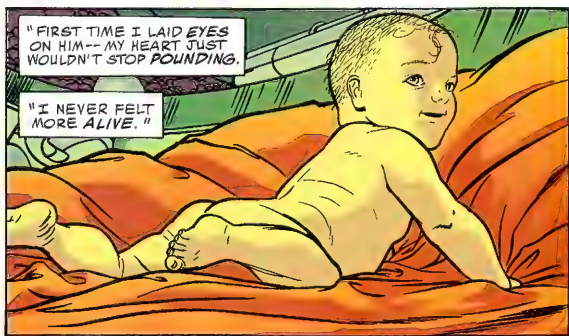
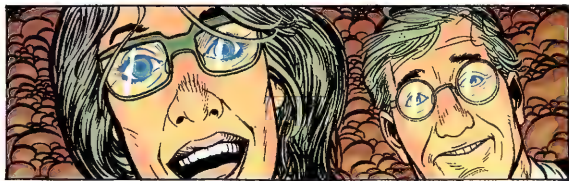
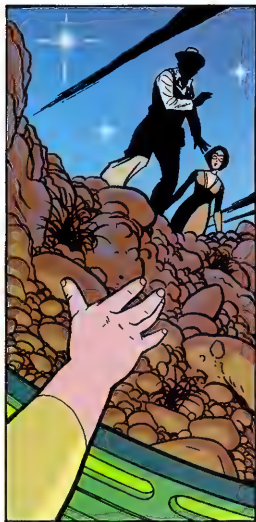
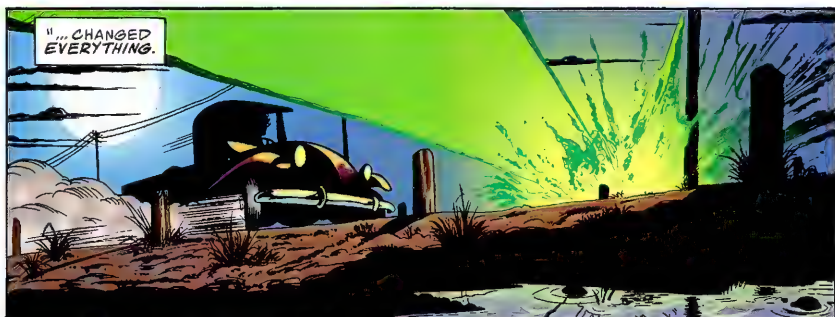
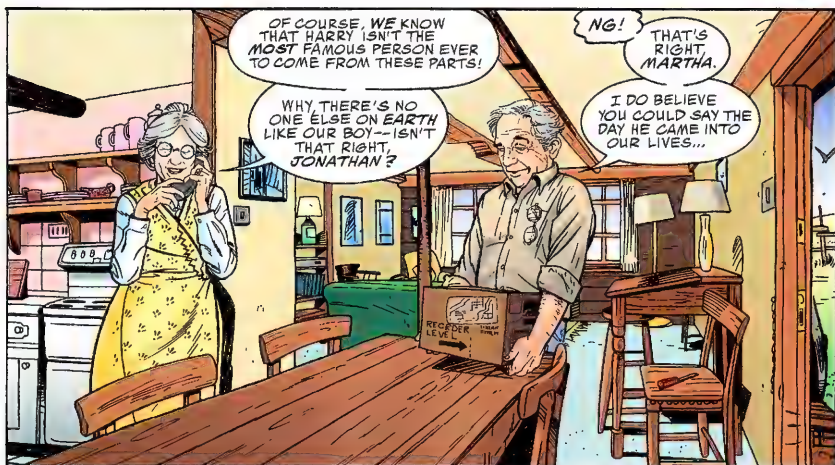


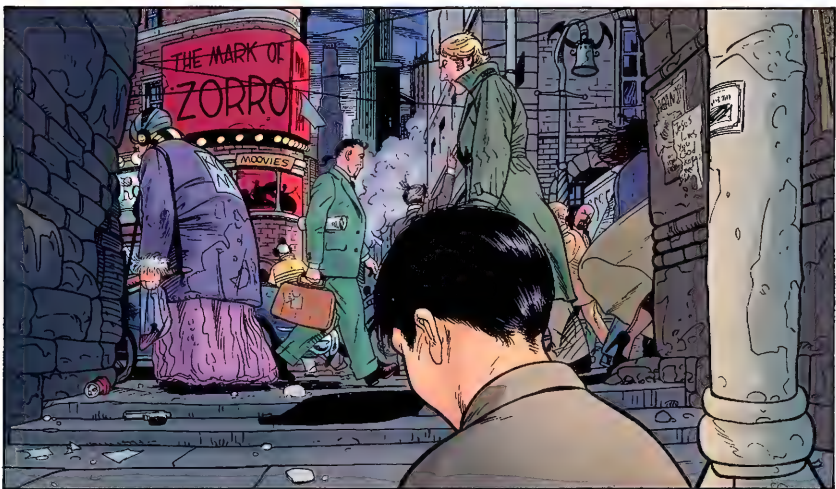
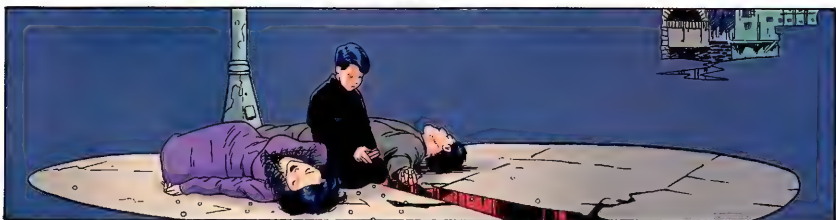
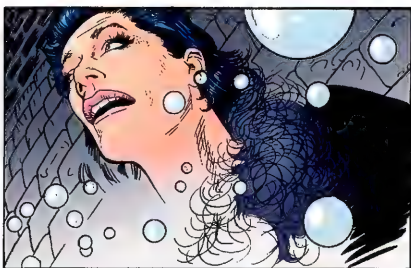


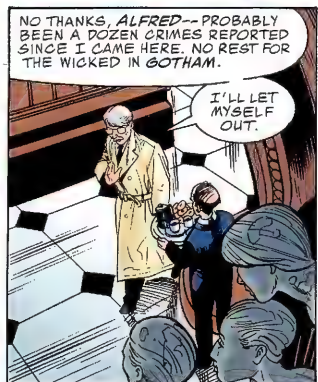
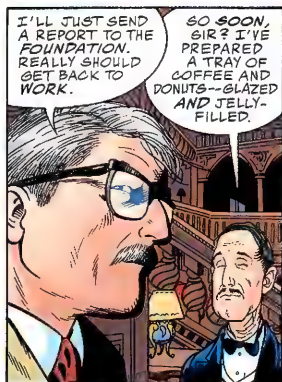
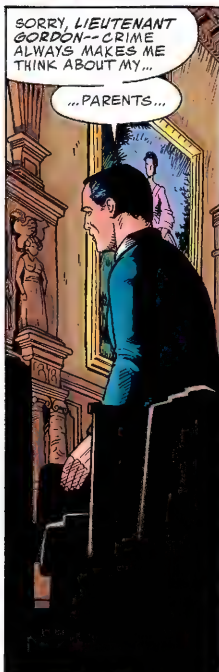














I BELIEVE THE LIEUTENANT WAS HERE FOR NEARLY THREE MINUTES.

THE SEMINAR YOU TOOK IN MAKING FRIENDS AND INFLUENCING PEOPLE HAS CERTAINLY PAID OFF, MASTER BRUCE.

JIM GORDON UNDERSTANDS, ALFRED... BETTER THAN EVEN HE KNOWS.

HE'S RIGHT-- THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO. MAYBE I SHOULD GET AN EARLY START ON THE EVENING.

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, SIR-- THOUGH I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH RUSH HOUR THAN THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT.

IF YOU LEAVE NOW, I BELIEVE YOU CAN ENJOY A LEISURELY DRIVE TO NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORK--?

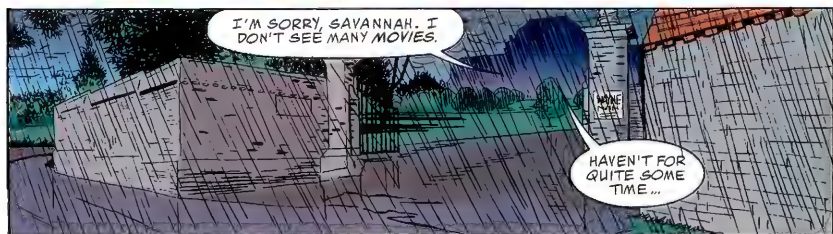
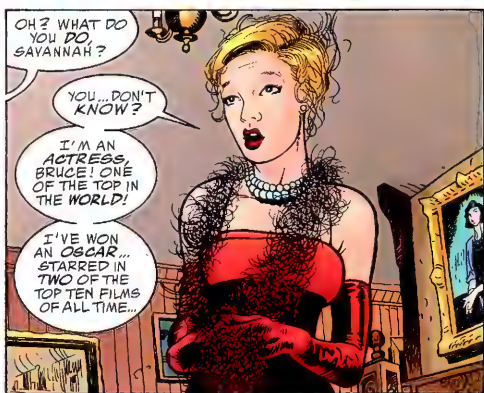
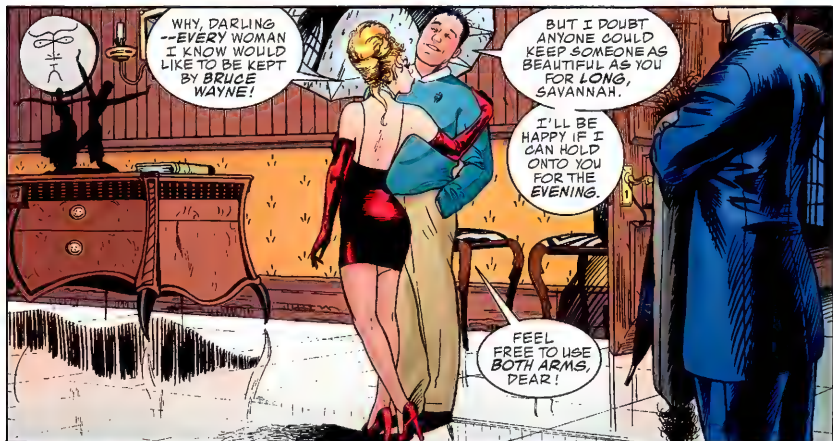
DR. GREY'S SURGICAL CENTER. YOU RECOMMENDED THE FOUNDATION INVEST HEAVILY IN IT...

...AND YOUR APPEARANCE AT ITS OPENING WILL ASSURE THE BOARD IT WAS MONEY WELL SPENT.

YOUR DATE FOR THE EVENING HAS ALREADY ARRIVED THE YOUNG LADY DR. GREY ASKED YOU TO ESCORT?

FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!-- I ASSUME IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW...

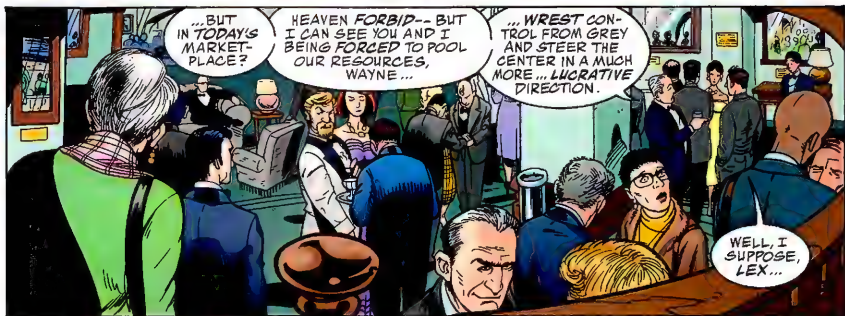
WHAT'S HER NAME AGAIN?





NEW YORK.

-- WISH GREY ALL THE BEST, DON'T GET ME WRONG, HIS HUMANITARIAN GOALS FOR THE CENTER ARE CERTAINLY ADMIRABLE ...

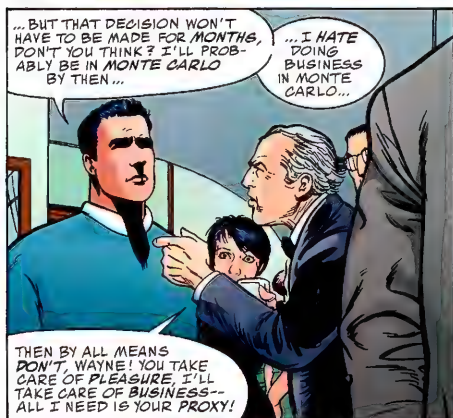


... BUT IN TODAY'S MARKET-PLACE?

HEAVEN FORBID-- BUT I CAN SEE YOU AND I BEING FORCED TO POOL OUR RESOURCES, WAYNE ...

... WREST CONTROL FROM GREY AND STEER THE CENTER IN A MUCH MORE ... LUCRATIVE DIRECTION.

WELL, I SUPPOSE, LEX ...



... BUT THAT DECISION WON'T HAVE TO BE MADE FOR MONTHS, DON'T YOU THINK? I'LL PROBABLY BE IN MONTE CARLO BY THEN ...

... I HATE DOING BUSINESS IN MONTE CARLO ...

THEN BY ALL MEANS DON'T, WAYNE! YOU TAKE CARE OF PLEASURE, I'LL TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS-- ALL I NEED IS YOUR PROXY!



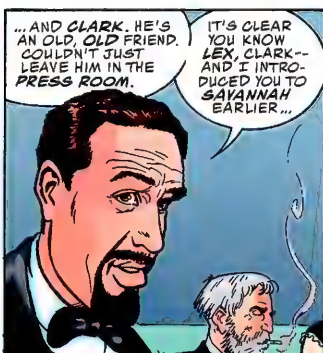
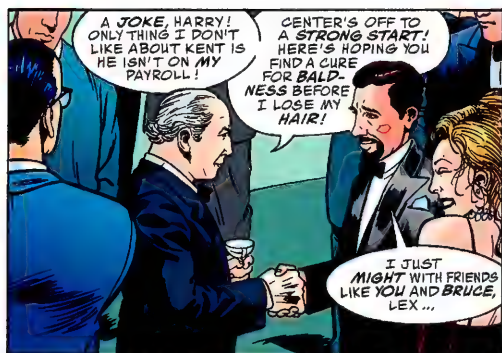
CAN I QUOTE YOU ON THAT, MR. LUTHOR?

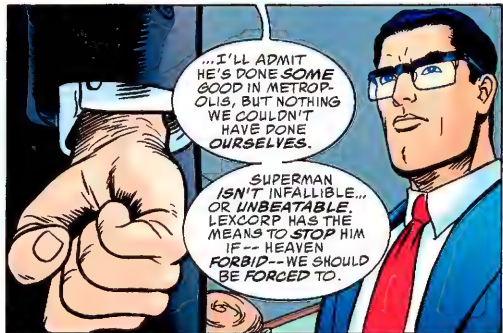
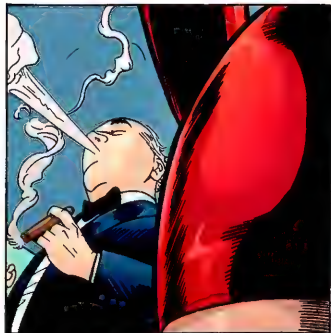
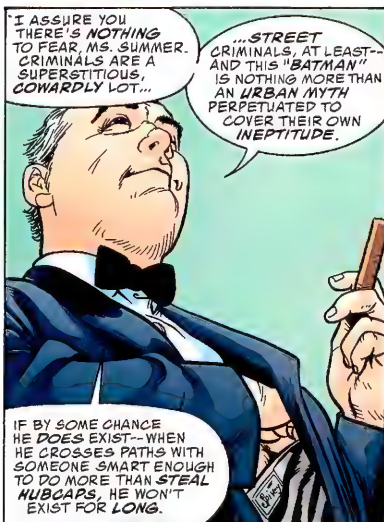
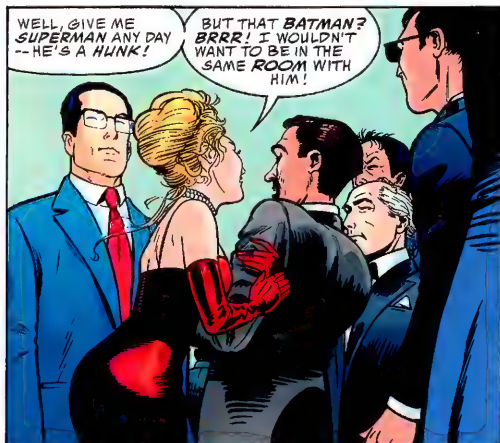
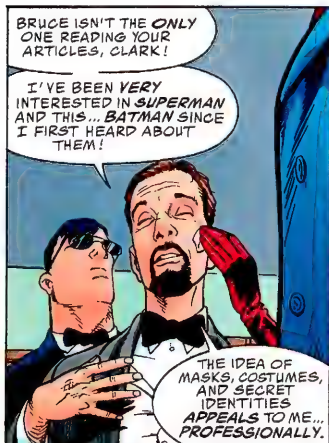
KENT! WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THE OTHER MEDIA VULTURES? HOW'D YOU SNEAK IN HERE?

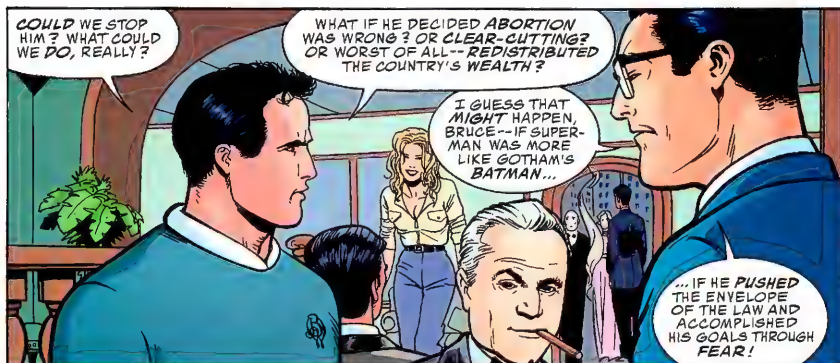


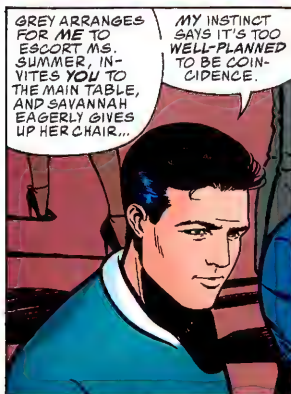
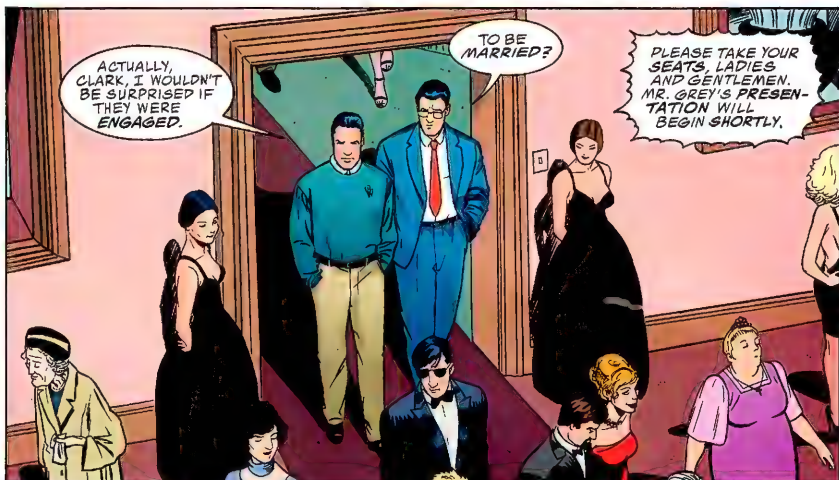
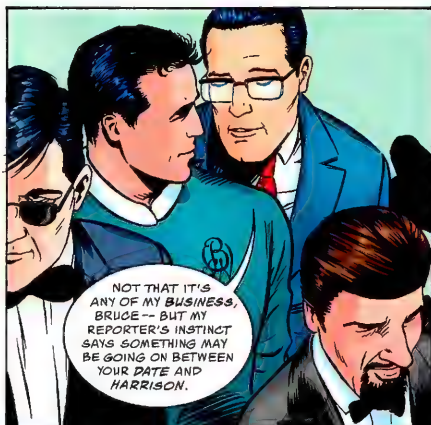
I'M AFRAID I LET HIM IN, LEX!

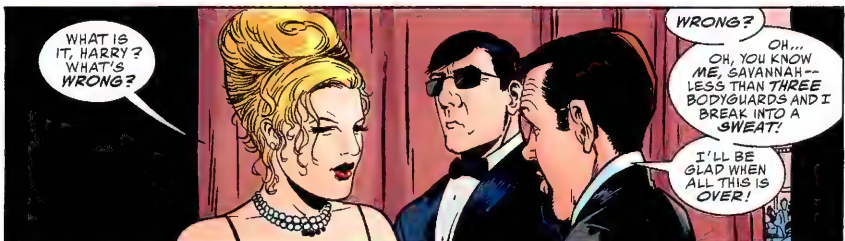
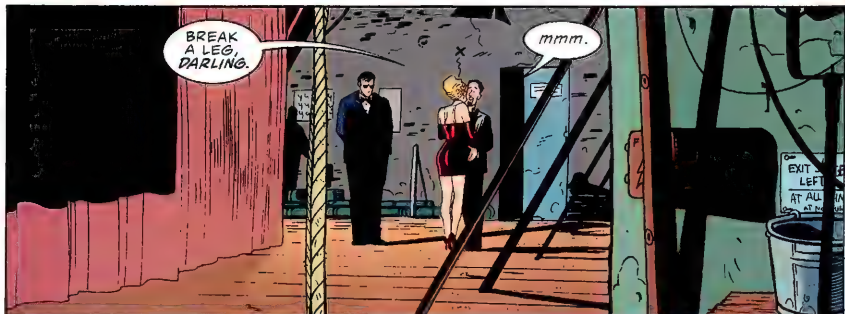
SEE, BRUCE? I TOLD YOU I'D FIND HARRISON!













THANK YOU...
THANK YOU. THIS IS
AN IMPORTANT DAY IN
MY LIFE, AND I'M
HONORED SO MANY
OF YOU COULD BE
HERE.

BUT BEFORE WE
GET TO BUSINESS,
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT TO
MAKE.

THIS IS AN ARTIST'S
REPRESENTATION
OF GOTHAM'S BATMAN.
NO PHOTOS OF HIM
EXIST-- IF HE EXISTS
AT ALL.

BUT BASED ON
EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS
AND MY OWN
EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF
FACIAL STRUCTURE...

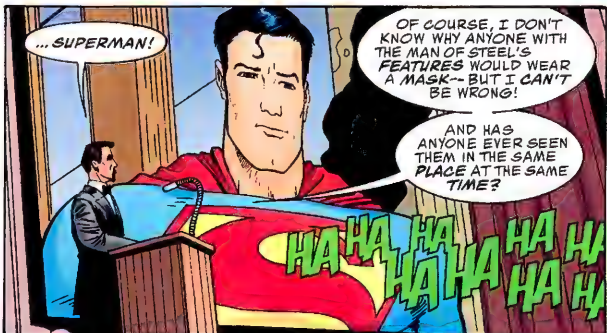
...I'VE DEDUCED
WHAT BATMAN LOOKS
LIKE UNDER HIS
MASK! HE'S...

NEXT
SLIDE,
PLEASE.



HAND IT TO HARRY-- HE
CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO GET
A CROWD'S ATTENTION!

HE HAS
MINE.



...SUPERMAN!

OF COURSE, I DON'T
KNOW WHY ANYONE WITH
THE MAN OF STEEL'S
FEATURES WOULD WEAR
A MASK-- BUT I CAN'T
BE WRONG!

AND HAS
ANYONE EVER SEEN
THEM IN THE SAME
PLACE AT THE SAME
TIME?

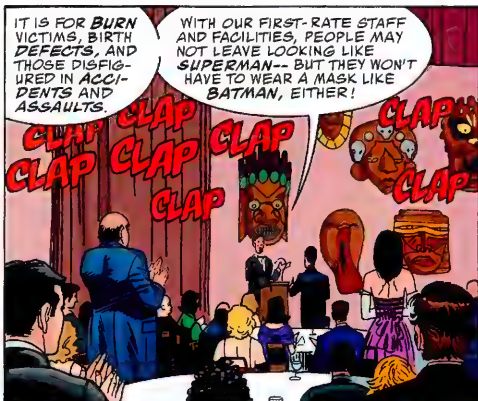
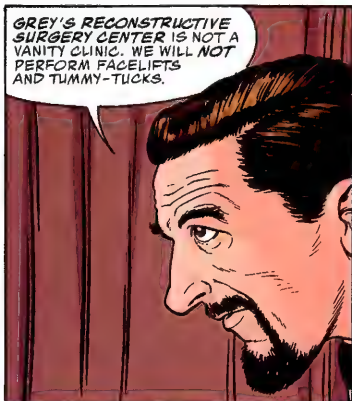
HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA

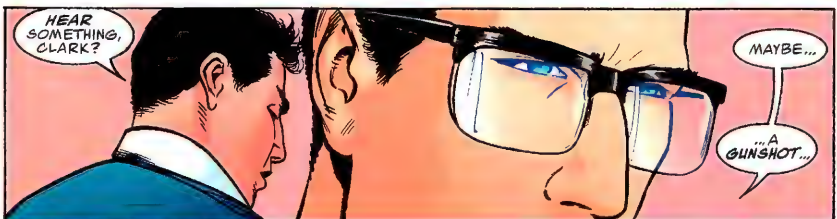
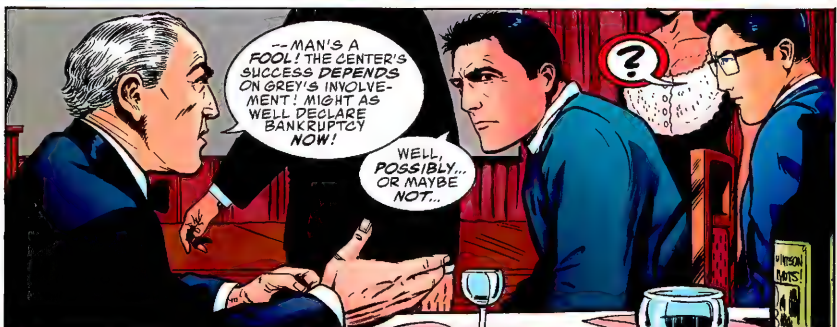


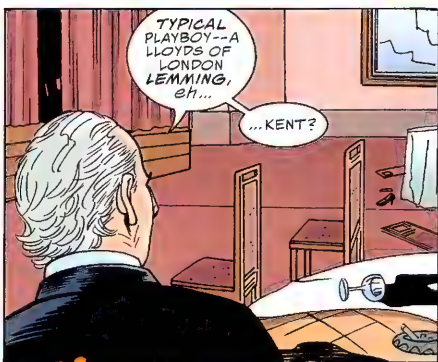
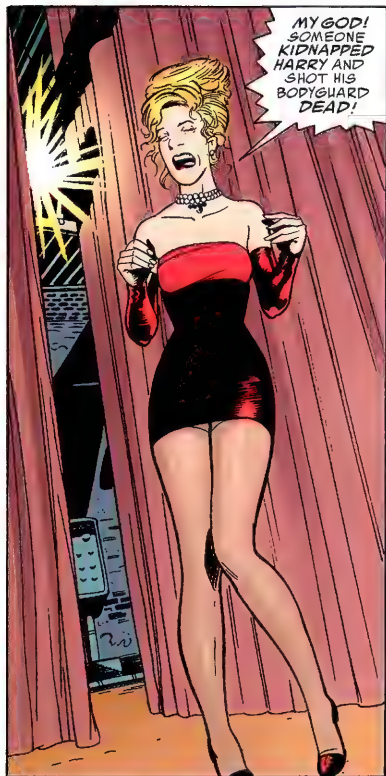
OVER THE PAST FEW
MONTHS, I'VE BEEN
FASCINATED WITH THE
STORIES OF THESE TWO
MODERN MYTHS, SAME
AS EVERYONE ELSE.

AND THOUGH I'D
STARTED WORK ON THIS
CENTER LONG BEFORE
EITHER WAS AROUND, I
REALIZED THAT THEY
AND I, IN A WAY, WERE
TRYING TO DO THE
SAME THING.

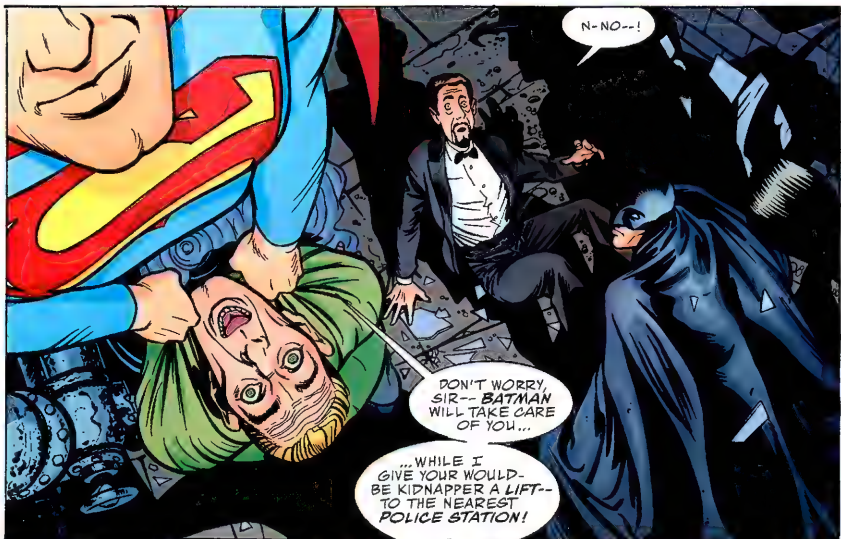
SUPERMAN AND
BATMAN GIVE PEOPLE
HOPE-- THEY TRANSFORM
LIVES-- AND THAT'S WHAT
WE'LL DO HERE.







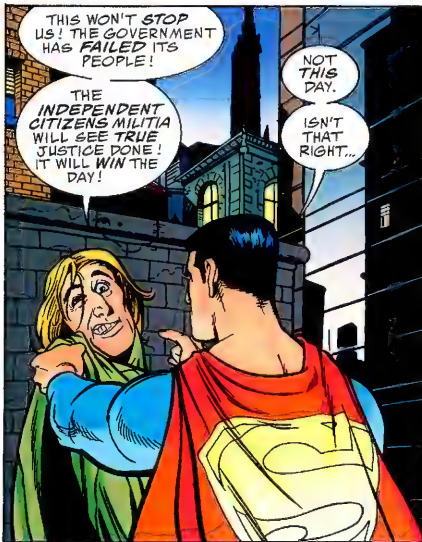




N-NO--!

DON'T WORRY,
SIR-- BATMAN
WILL TAKE CARE
OF YOU...

...WHILE I
GIVE YOUR WOULD-
BE KIDNAPPER A LIFT--
TO THE NEAREST
POLICE STATION!



THIS WON'T STOP
US! THE GOVERNMENT
HAS FAILED ITS
PEOPLE!

THE
INDEPENDENT
CITIZENS MILITIA
WILL SEE TRUE
JUSTICE DONE!
IT WILL WIN THE
DAY!

NOT
THIS
DAY.

ISN'T
THAT
RIGHT...

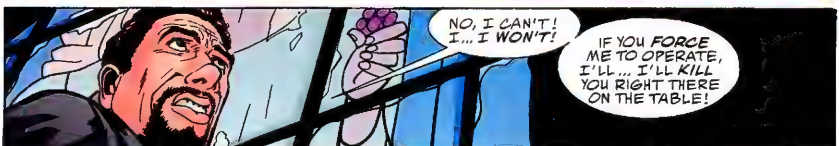
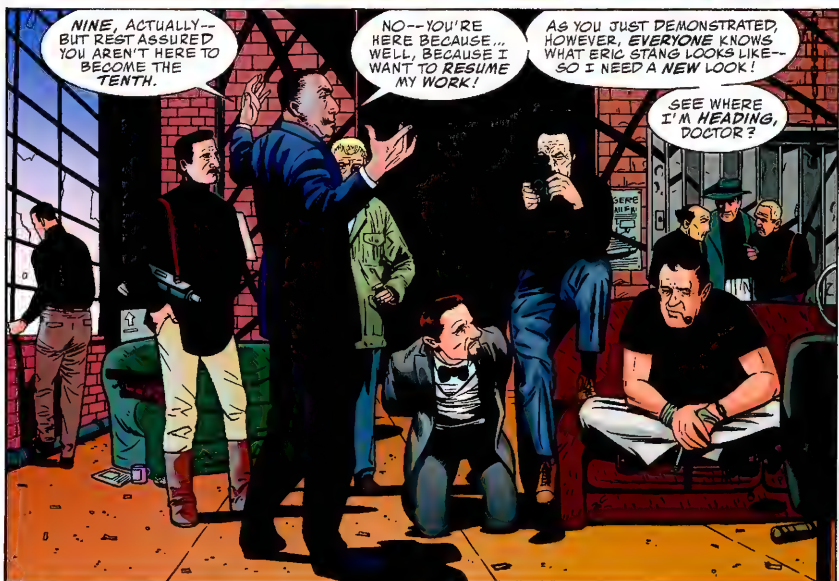
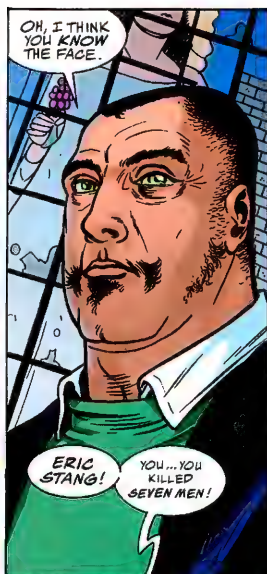


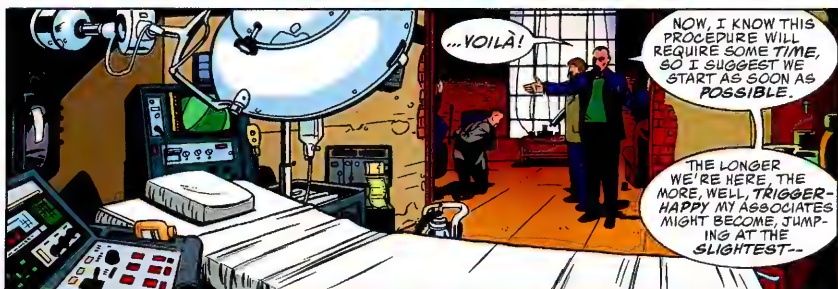
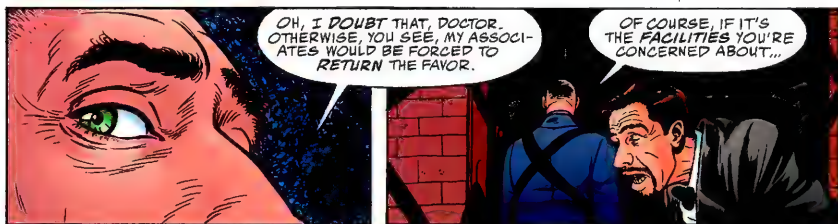
...BATMAN?

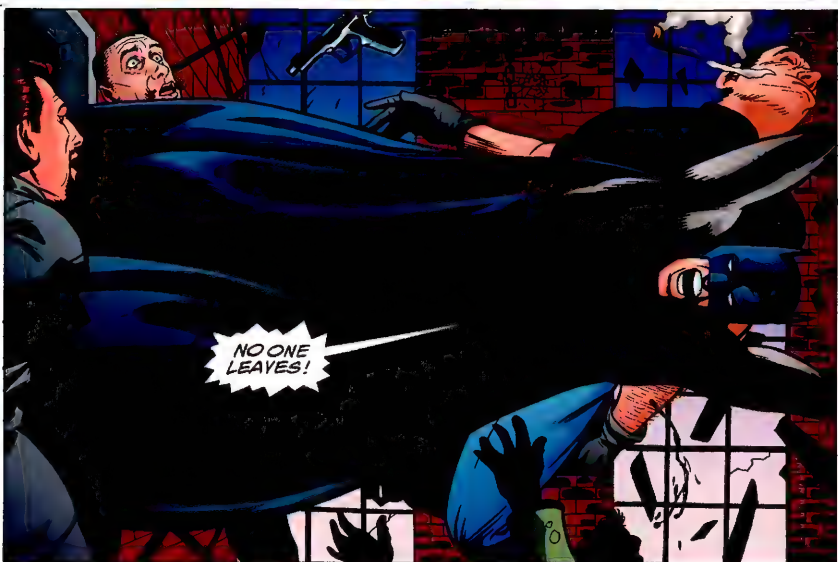
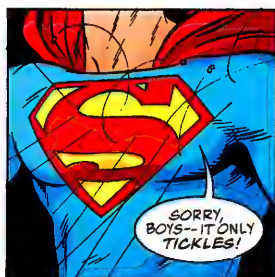
KNEW THIS
WOULDN'T
WORK... KNEW
IT...

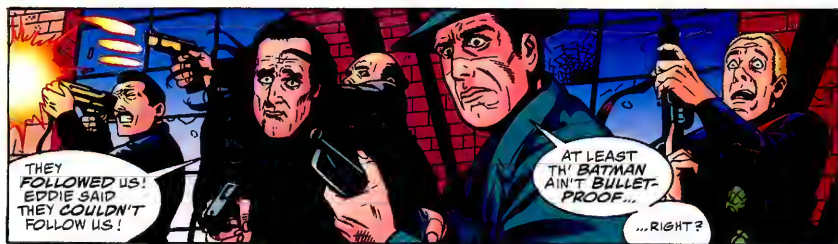


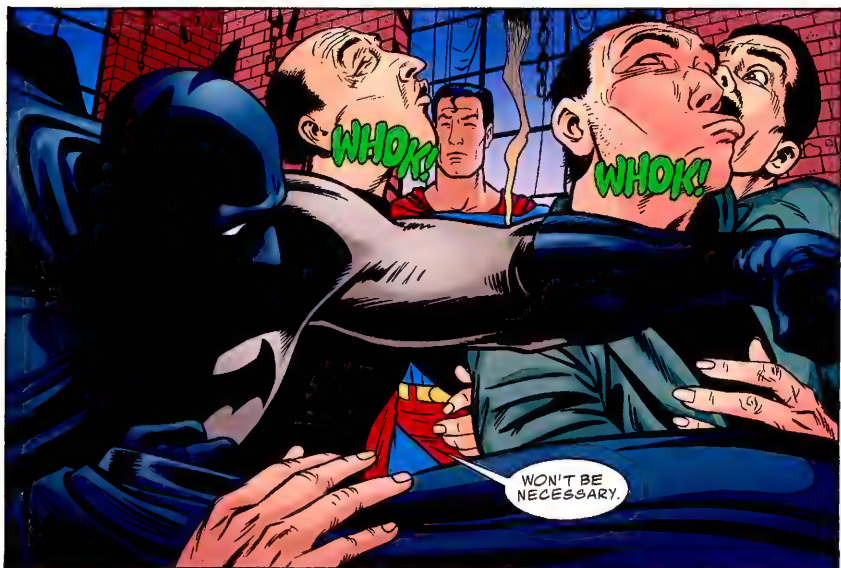






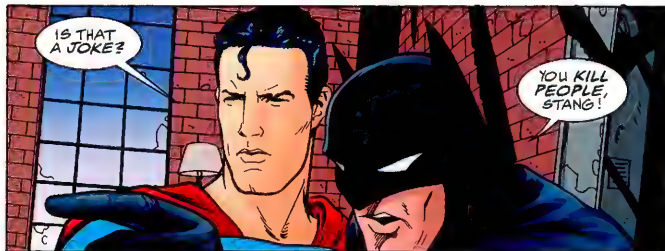






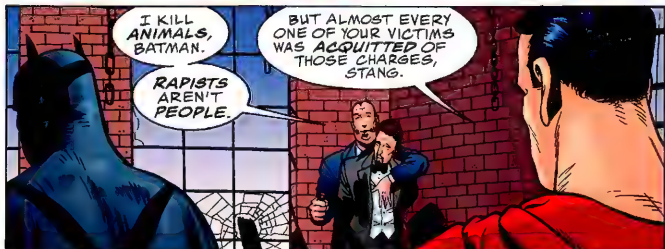
IN CASE IT ISN'T CLEAR-- I'M NOT RETURNING TO PRISON. EVER AGAIN.

BUT I'M SURE WE CAN COME TO SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT. WE ARE, AFTER ALL, KINDRED SPIRITS.



IS THAT A JOKE?

YOU KILL PEOPLE, STANG!



I KILL ANIMALS, BATMAN.

BUT ALMOST EVERY ONE OF YOUR VICTIMS WAS ACQUITTED OF THOSE CHARGES, STANG.

RAPISTS AREN'T PEOPLE.



OF COURSE, SUPERMAN. THE THREE OF US DON'T TAKE THE LAW INTO OUR OWN HANDS WHEN THE SYSTEM WORKS.

THERE'S NO REASON TO GO AFTER THE ONES WHO ARE CONVICTED.



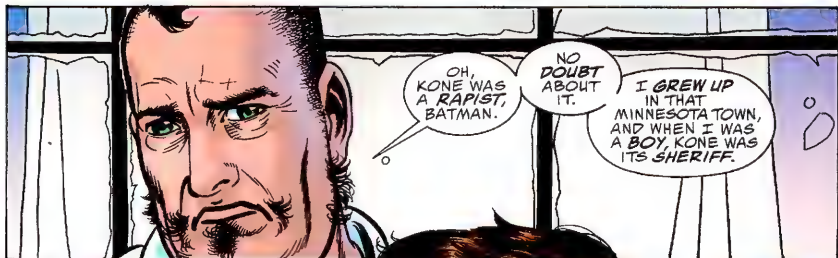
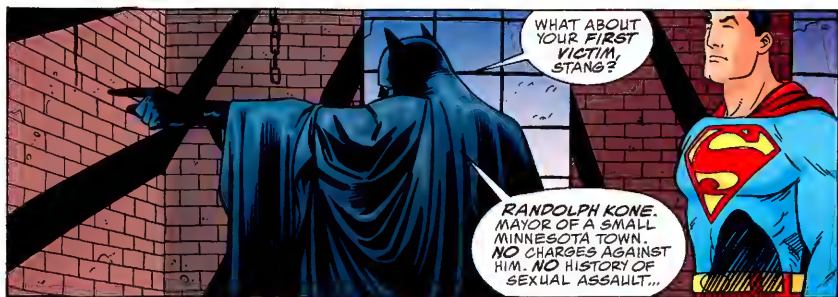
BATMAN-- PLEASE. I'M NO COMMON STREET THUG. I SEE YOU TRYING TO EASE AROUND TO MY SIDE.

BACK WHERE YOU BELONG, IF YOU DON'T MIND-- NEXT TO SUPERMAN.

THANK YOU.



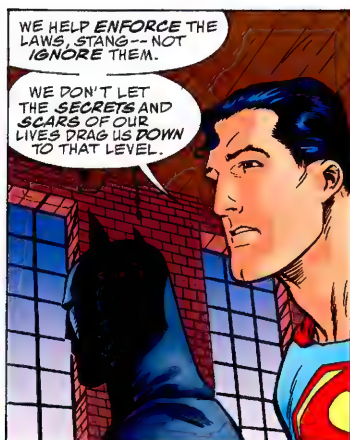
GOODWIN





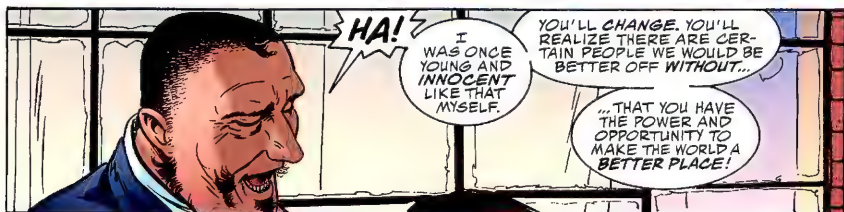
I KNEW
YOU WOULD
UNDER-
STAND.

THERE ARE TIMES
WHEN YOU NEED TO
TAKE THE LAW INTO
YOUR OWN
HANDS.



WE HELP ENFORCE THE
LAWS, STANG-- NOT
IGNORE THEM.

WE DON'T LET
THE SECRETS AND
SCARS OF OUR
LIVES DRAG US DOWN
TO THAT LEVEL.

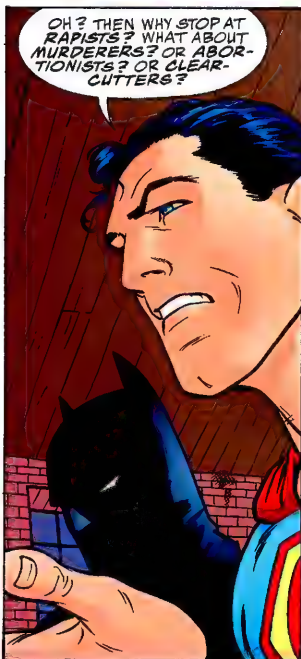


HA!

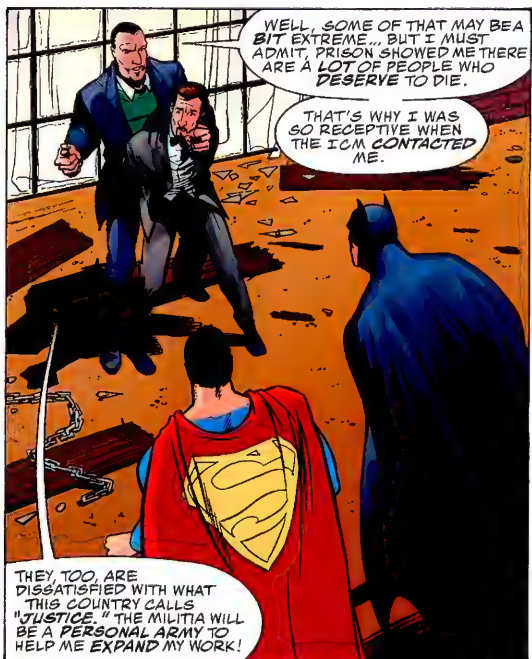
I
WAS ONCE
YOUNG AND
INNOCENT
LIKE THAT
MYSELF.

YOU'LL CHANGE. YOU'LL
REALIZE THERE ARE CER-
TAIN PEOPLE WE WOULD BE
BETTER OFF WITHOUT...

... THAT YOU HAVE
THE POWER AND
OPPORTUNITY TO
MAKE THE WORLD A
BETTER PLACE!



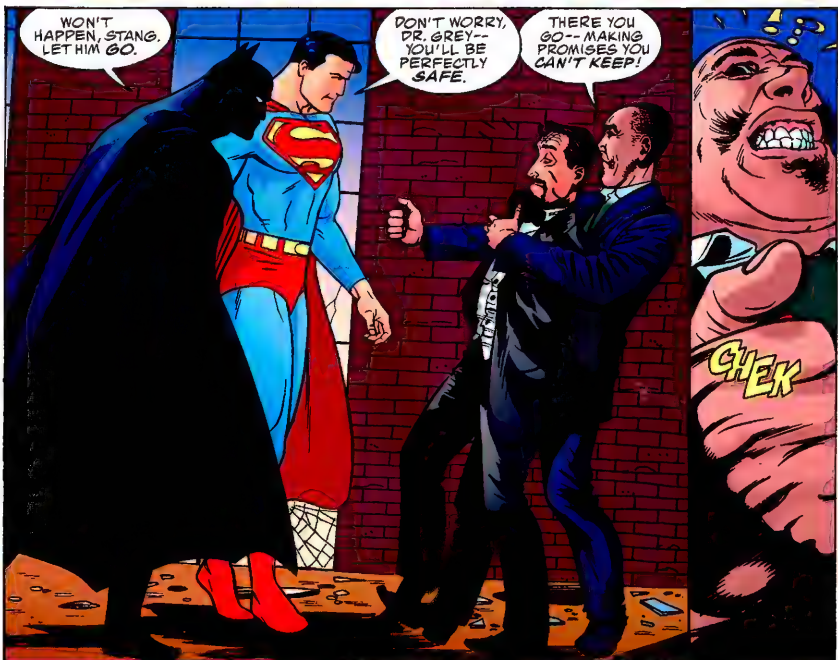
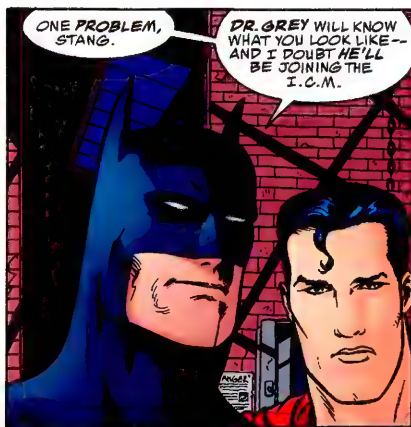
OH? THEN WHY STOP AT
RAPISTS? WHAT ABOUT
MURDERERS? OR ABOR-
TIONISTS? OR CLEAR-
CUTTERS?

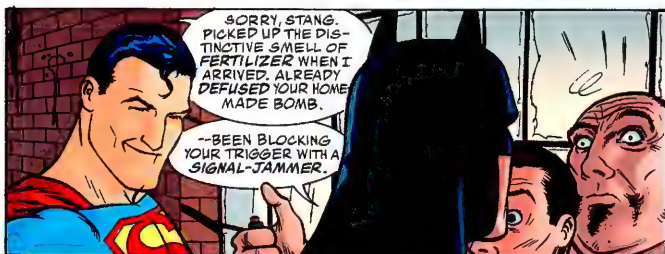


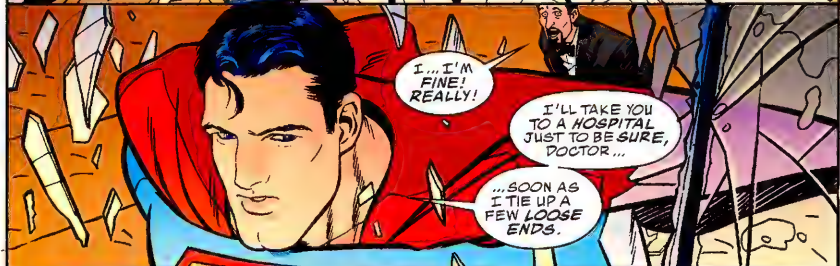
WELL, SOME OF THAT MAY BE A
BIT EXTREME... BUT I MUST
ADMIT, PRISON SHOWED ME THERE
ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO
DESERVE TO DIE.

THAT'S WHY I WAS
SO RECEPTIVE WHEN
THE ICM CONTACTED
ME.

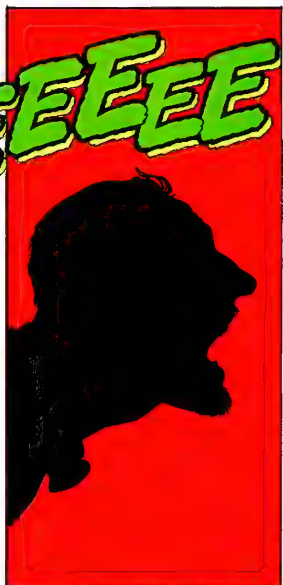
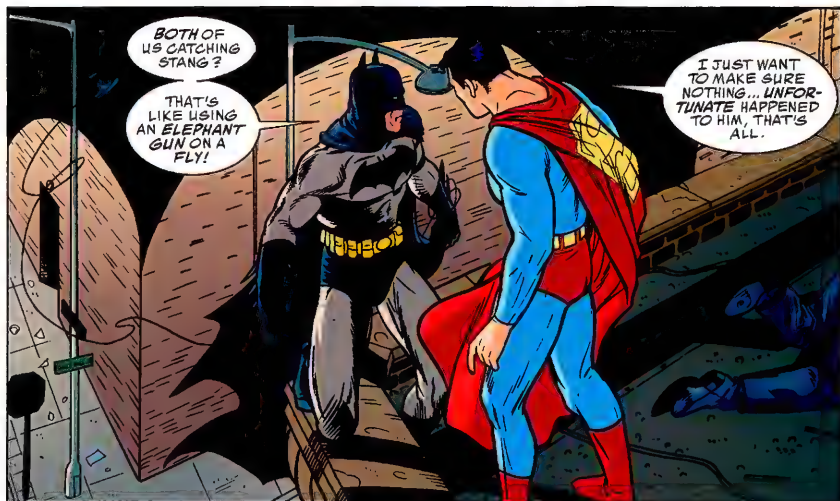
THEY TOO, ARE
DISSATISFIED WITH WHAT
THIS COUNTRY CALLS
"JUSTICE." THE MILITIA WILL
BE A PERSONAL ARMY TO
HELP ME EXPAND MY WORK!

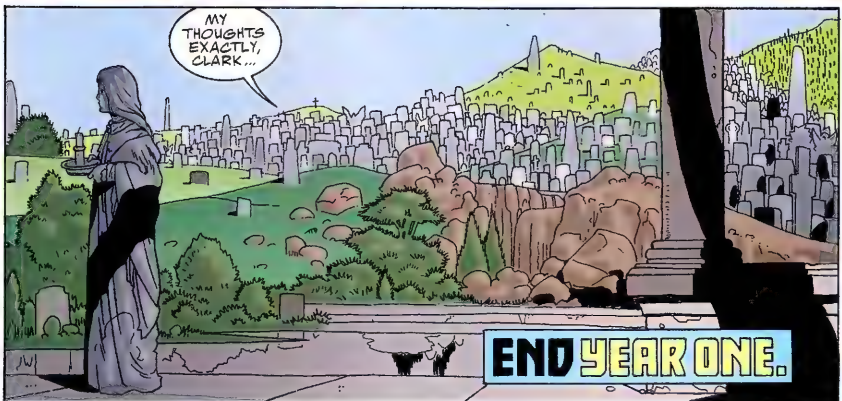
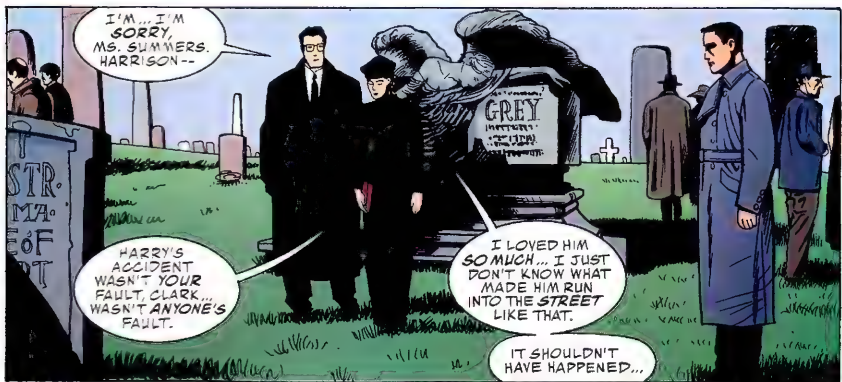
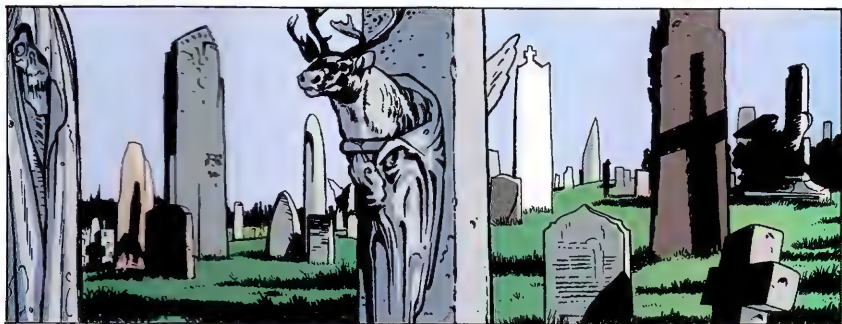












BOOK FIVE

SUPERMAN[®]

THE MIRROR, CRACK'D...





SLOPPY AND BLATANT.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THIS LITTLE PACKAGE CAME FROM YOU.

WAS IT INDEED?

OBVIOUS. OBVIOUS.

AND WHAT, I WONDER, DO YOU CONSIDER OBVIOUS, SUPERMAN?



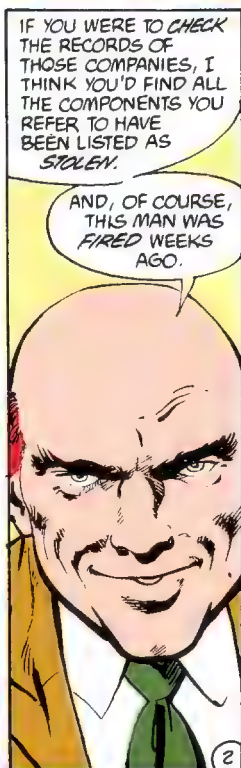
OH, LITTLE THINGS, LUTHOR. LIKE THE FACT THAT EVERY COMPONENT OF THIS BATTLE SUIT CAME FROM A LEXCORP COMPANY.



OR THE FACT THIS POOR GOON IS CARRYING LEXCORP I.D.

LIKE I SAID-- SLOPPY.

BUT NOT QUITE SLOPPY ENOUGH, SUPERMAN.



IF YOU WERE TO CHECK THE RECORDS OF THOSE COMPANIES, I THINK YOU'D FIND ALL THE COMPONENTS YOU REFER TO HAVE BEEN LISTED AS *STOLEN*.

AND, OF COURSE, THIS MAN WAS FIRED WEEKS AGO.



COMPUTER RECORDS CAN ALWAYS BE *FAKED*, LUTHOR. I THINK WE'LL WAIT AND SEE WHAT THIS MAN HAS TO SAY, WHEN HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.

I'M AFRAID HE'S LIABLE TO BE...

BUIH-DEE
BUIH-DEE
BUIH-DEEP!



WE DEVELOPED THIS SUIT UNDER CONTRACT FROM NASA, FOR USE UP ON THE MOONBASE. BUT WE FOUND THE PSYCHIC CONTROL INTERFACE WAS UNSTABLE.

ANYONE WHO WORE THE SUIT FOR MORE THAN ONE HOUR WAS LEFT A COMPLETE VEGETABLE.

APPARENTLY, THIS POOR DEVIL DIDN'T KNOW THAT.



SO YOU SEE, SUPERMAN, YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY TO HONG KONG FOR NOTHING.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN CONNECT THIS LATEST ATTACK ON YOUR PERSON WITH ME.



AND NOW, IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND AS TO EXCUSE ME, I AM VERY BUSY.

ALL RIGHT, LUTHOR.



WE'LL ADD THIS MAN'S WASTED LIFE TO THE LIST OF CRIMES YOU'RE GOING TO ANSWER FOR, SOMEDAY.

AND YOU *WILL* PAY, LUTHOR. I'LL SEE TO THAT. IF YOU CONTINUE YOUR INSANE ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY ME, ONE OF THESE TIMES YOU'RE GOING TO SLIP UP, AND EXPOSE YOURSELF.

AND I'M GOING TO NAIL YOU.

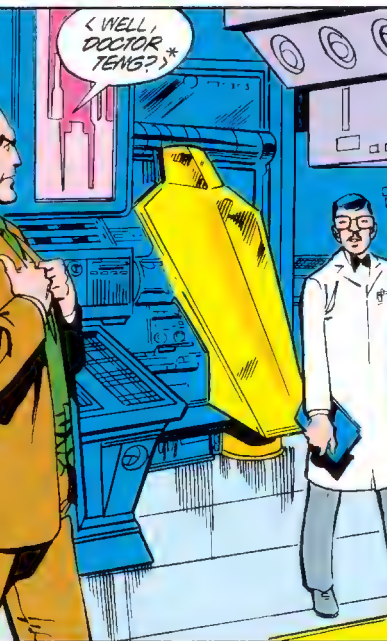


IMPUDENT YOUNG PUP! THINKS HIS SUPER-HUMAN POWERS MAKE HIM BETTER THAN LEX LUTHOR!

WELL, HE'S *WRONG*. HE'S VERY, VERY WRONG.



AND THIS IS THE DAY I PROVE THAT TO THE WORLD!

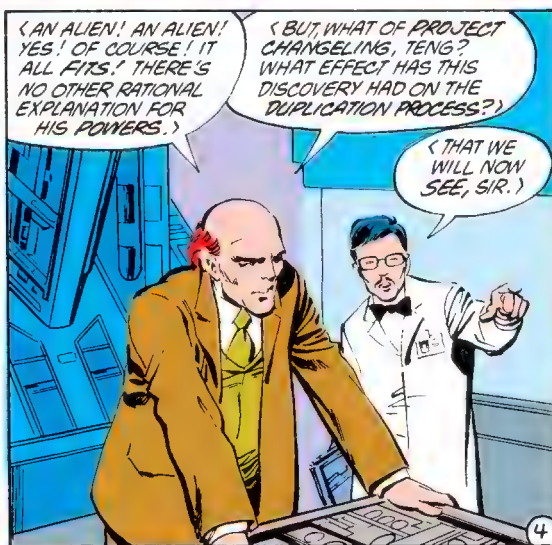
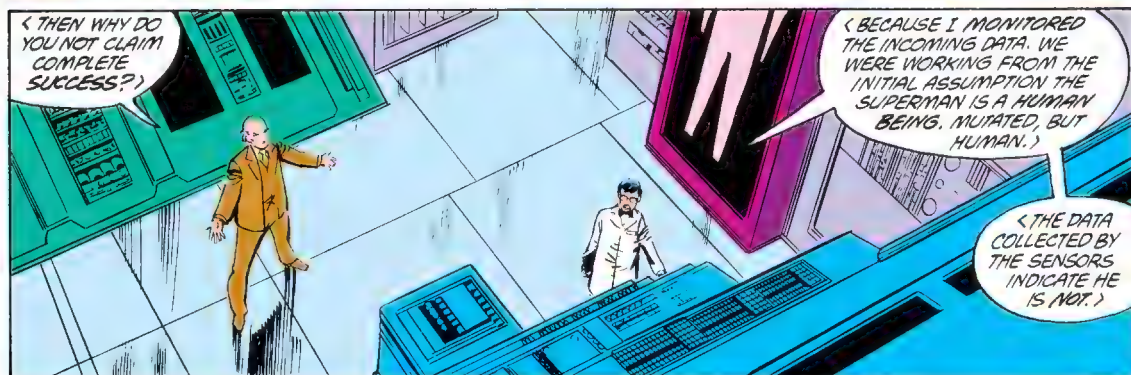
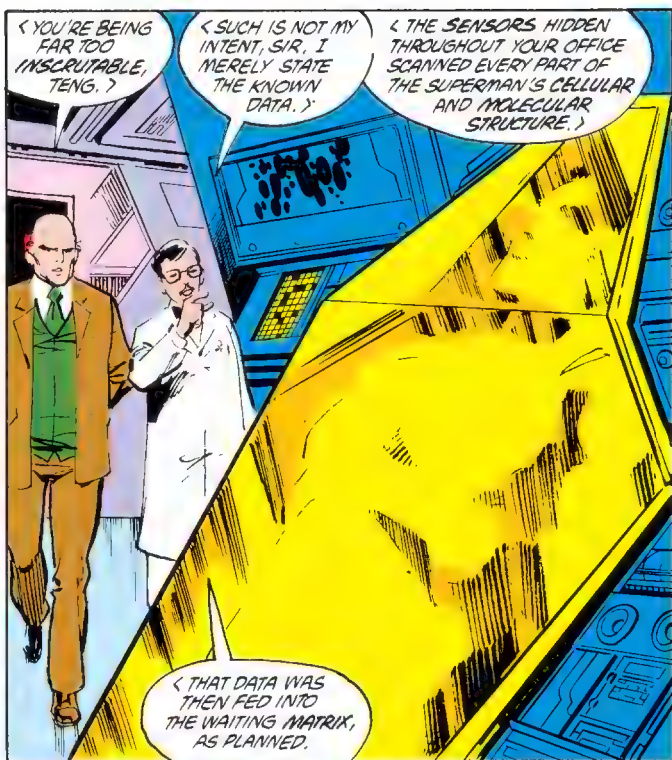


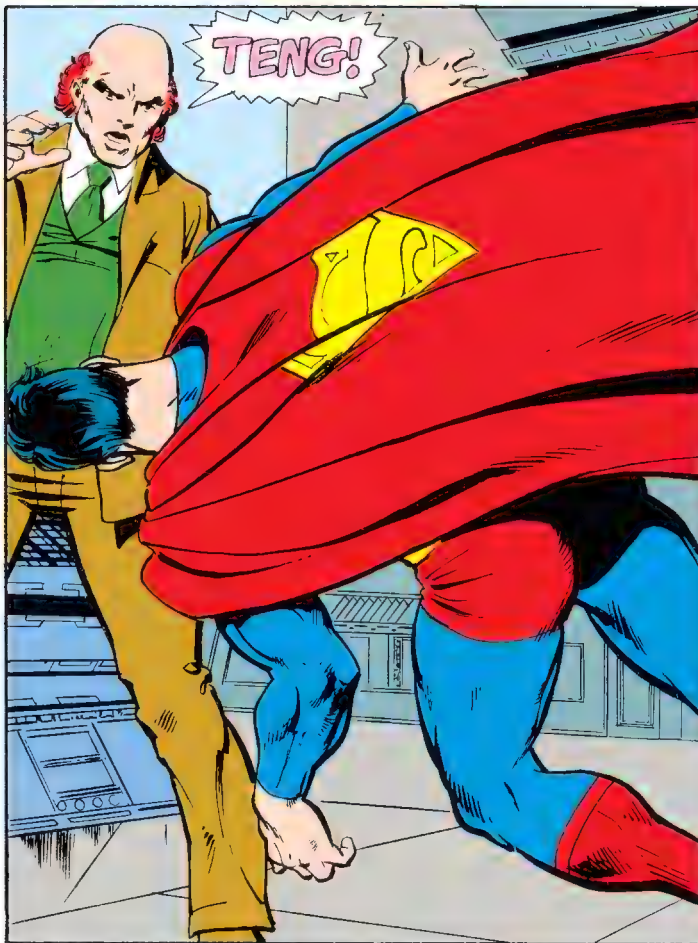
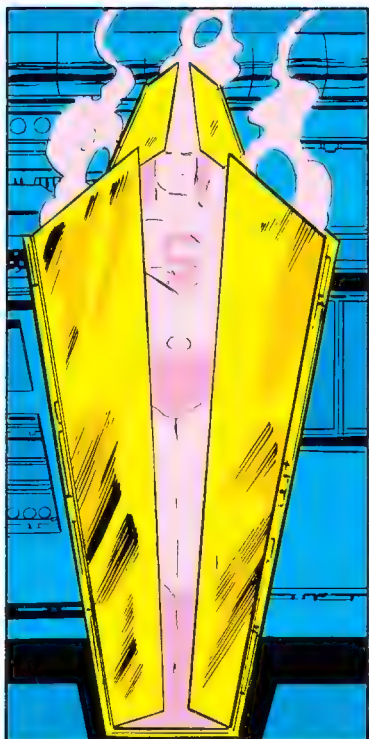
< WELL, DOCTOR TENG? >

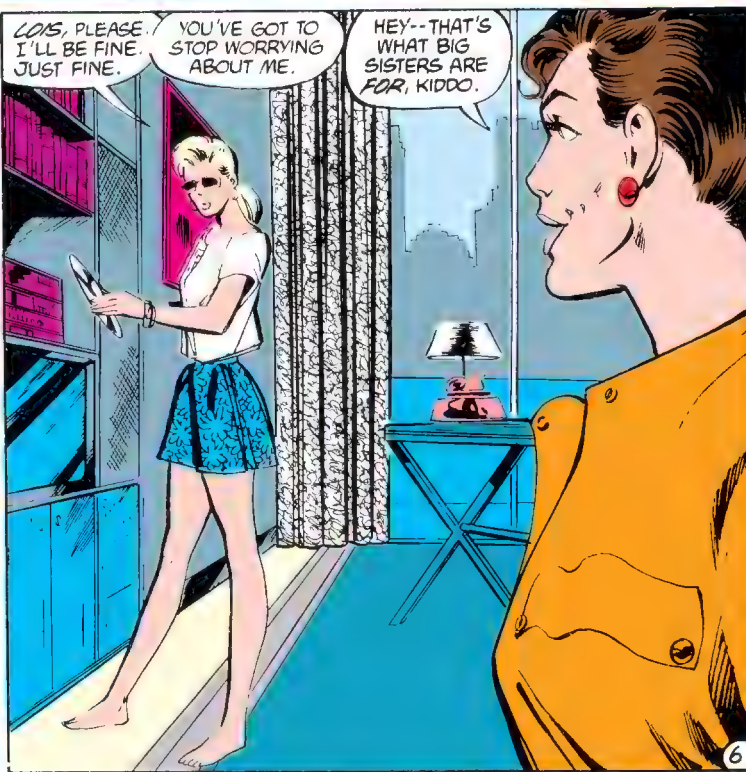
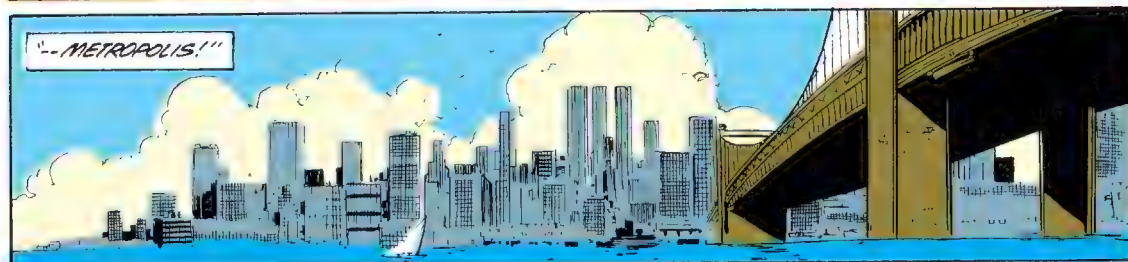


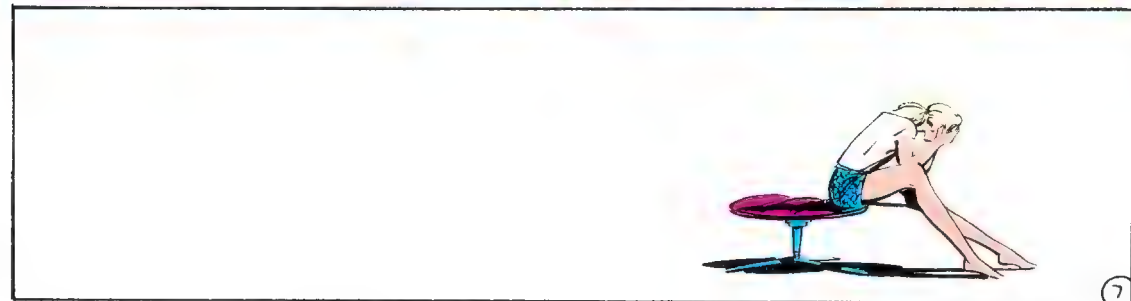
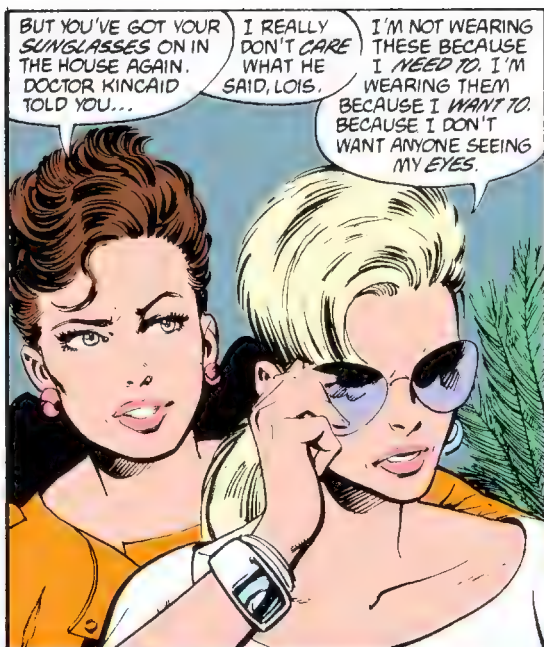
< I BELIEVE WE WERE SUCCESSFUL, MR. LUTHOR. >

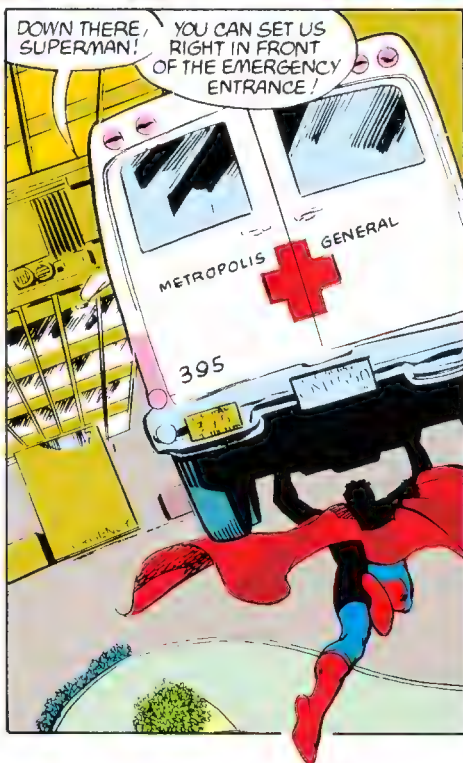
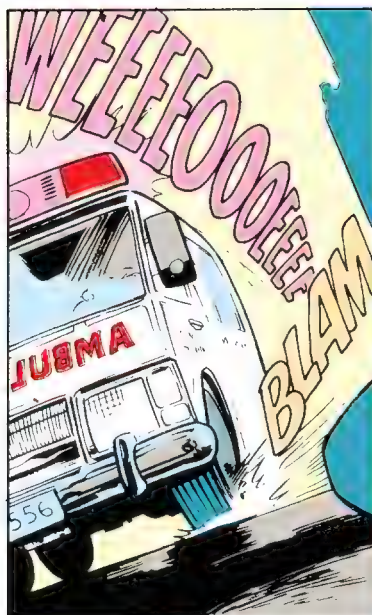
* TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE! 3





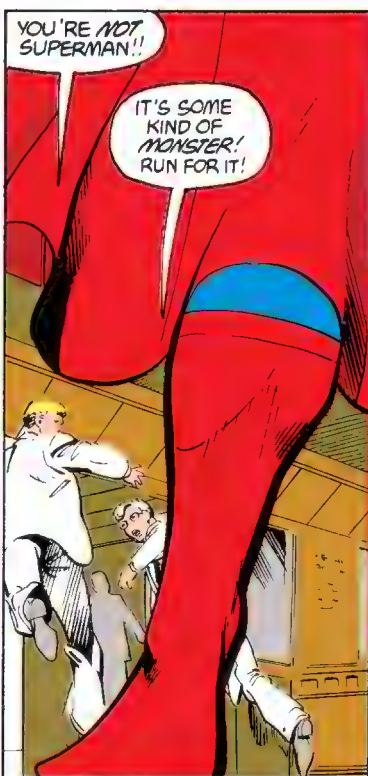






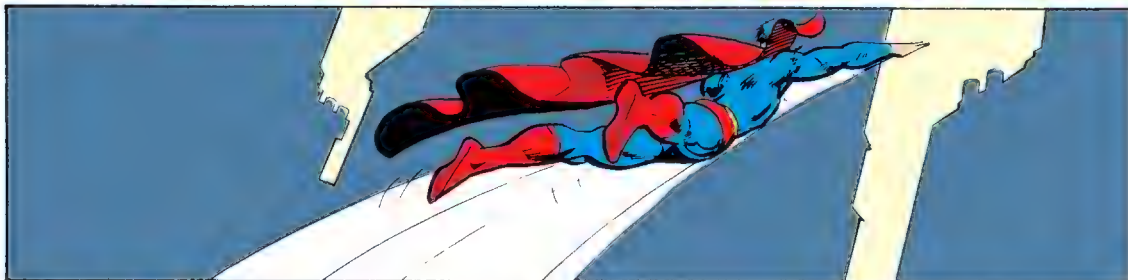
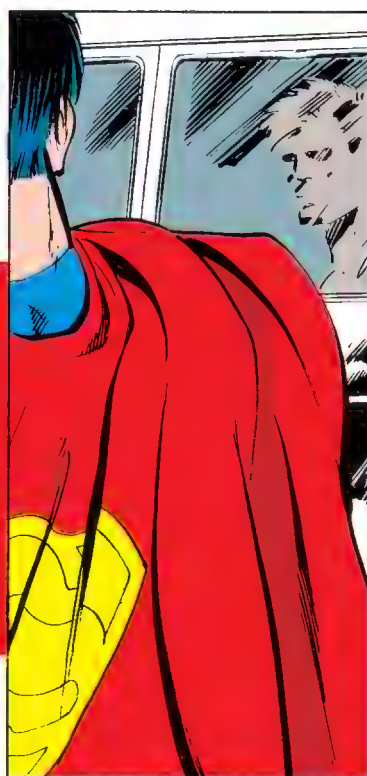


...YOU'RE...
...YOU'RE...
--GULP--



YOU'RE *NOT* SUPERMAN!!

IT'S SOME KIND OF *MONSTER!*
RUN FOR IT!



WHY NOT?



WHY TRY TO KID MYSELF ANY LONGER? I'M A *FLIGHT ATTENDANT.*

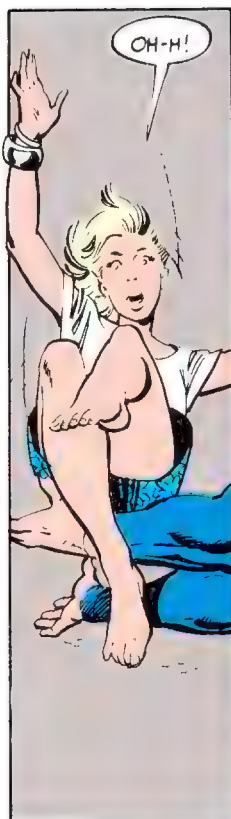
I'VE NEVER HAD THE SLIGHTEST INTEREST IN DOING ANYTHING ELSE. NEVER *TRAINED* TO DO ANYTHING ELSE.



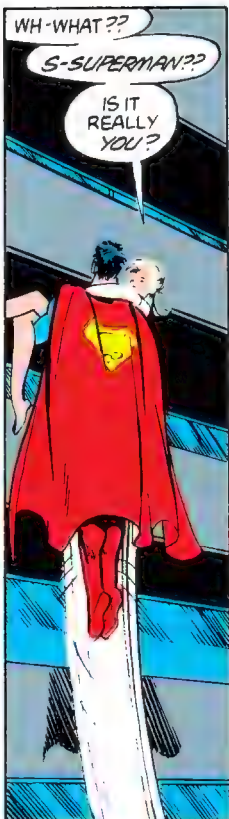
AND THERE'S JUST NO *DEMAND* FOR *BLIND* FLIGHT ATTENDANTS.

SO...

FORGIVE ME, LOIS!!



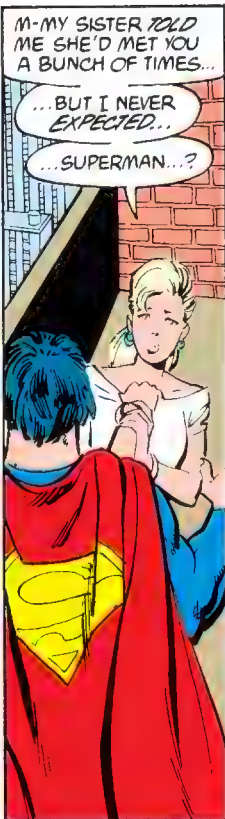
OH-H!



WH-WHAT??

S-SUPERMAN??

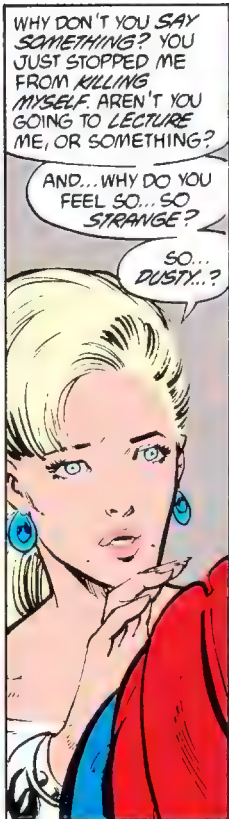
IS IT
REALLY
YOU?



M-MY SISTER TOLD
ME SHE'D MET YOU
A BUNCH OF TIMES...

...BUT I NEVER
EXPECTED...

...SUPERMAN...?



WHY DON'T YOU SAY
SOMETHING? YOU
JUST STOPPED ME
FROM KILLING
MYSELF. AREN'T YOU
GOING TO LECTURE
ME, OR SOMETHING?

AND... WHY DO YOU
FEEL SO... SO
STRANGE?

SO...
DUSTY...?

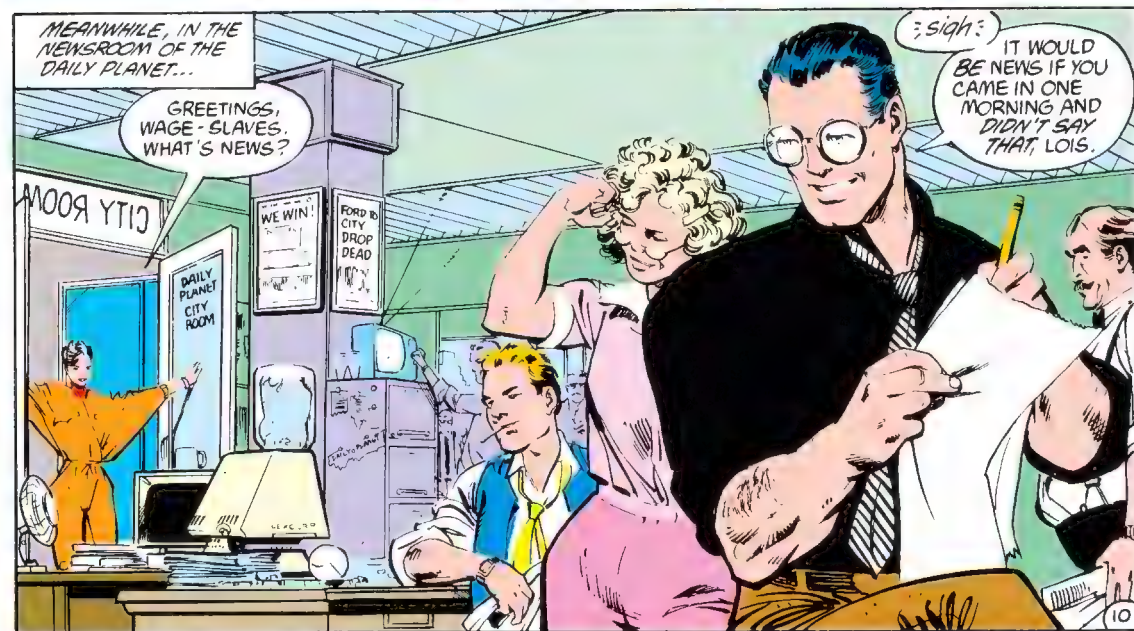


SUPERMAN...?



SUPERMAN,
ARE YOU STILL
HERE?

SUPERMAN...?

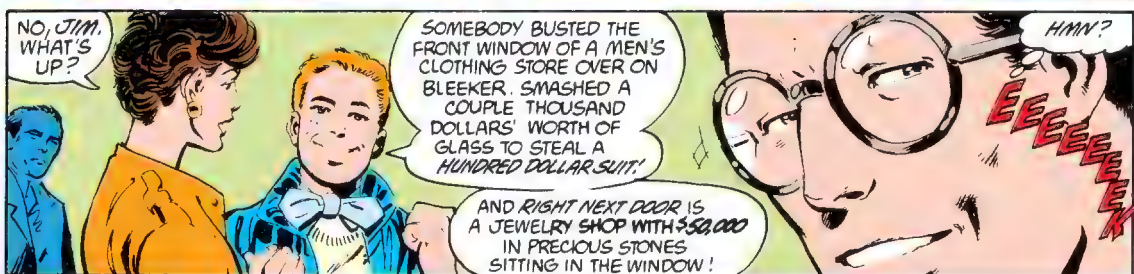
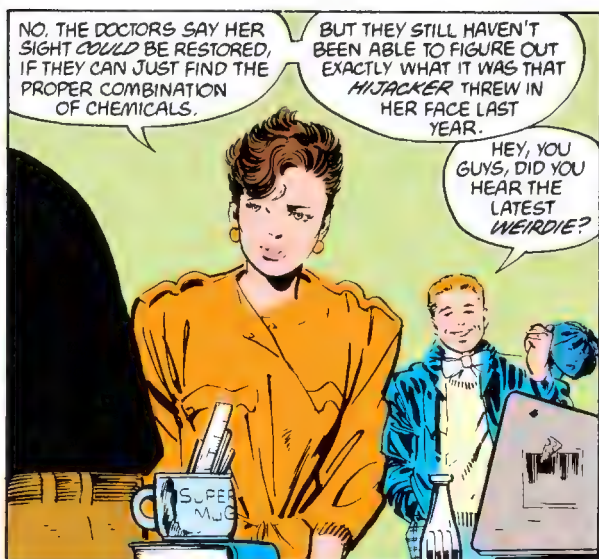


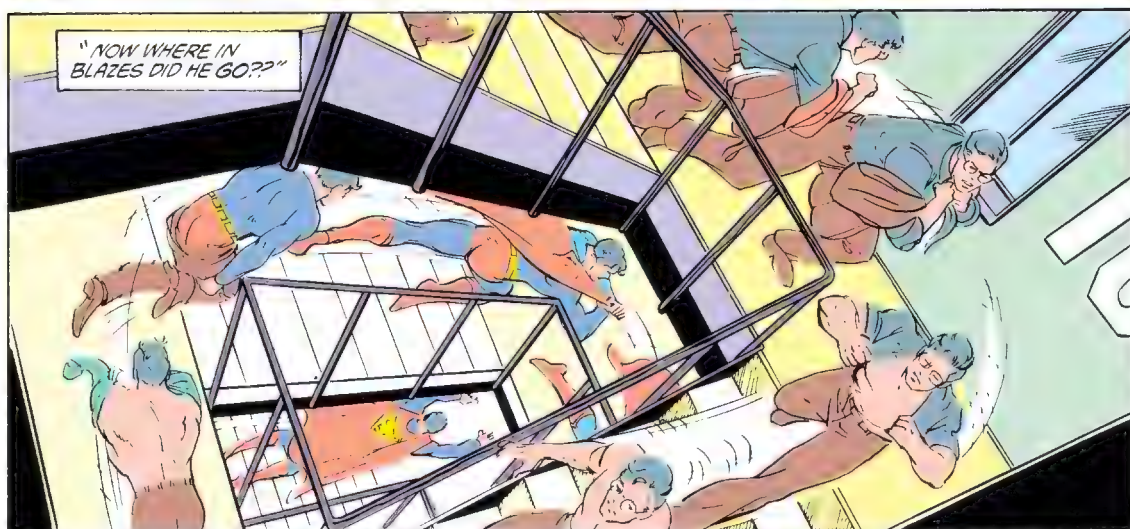
MEANWHILE, IN THE
NEWSROOM OF THE
DAILY PLANET...

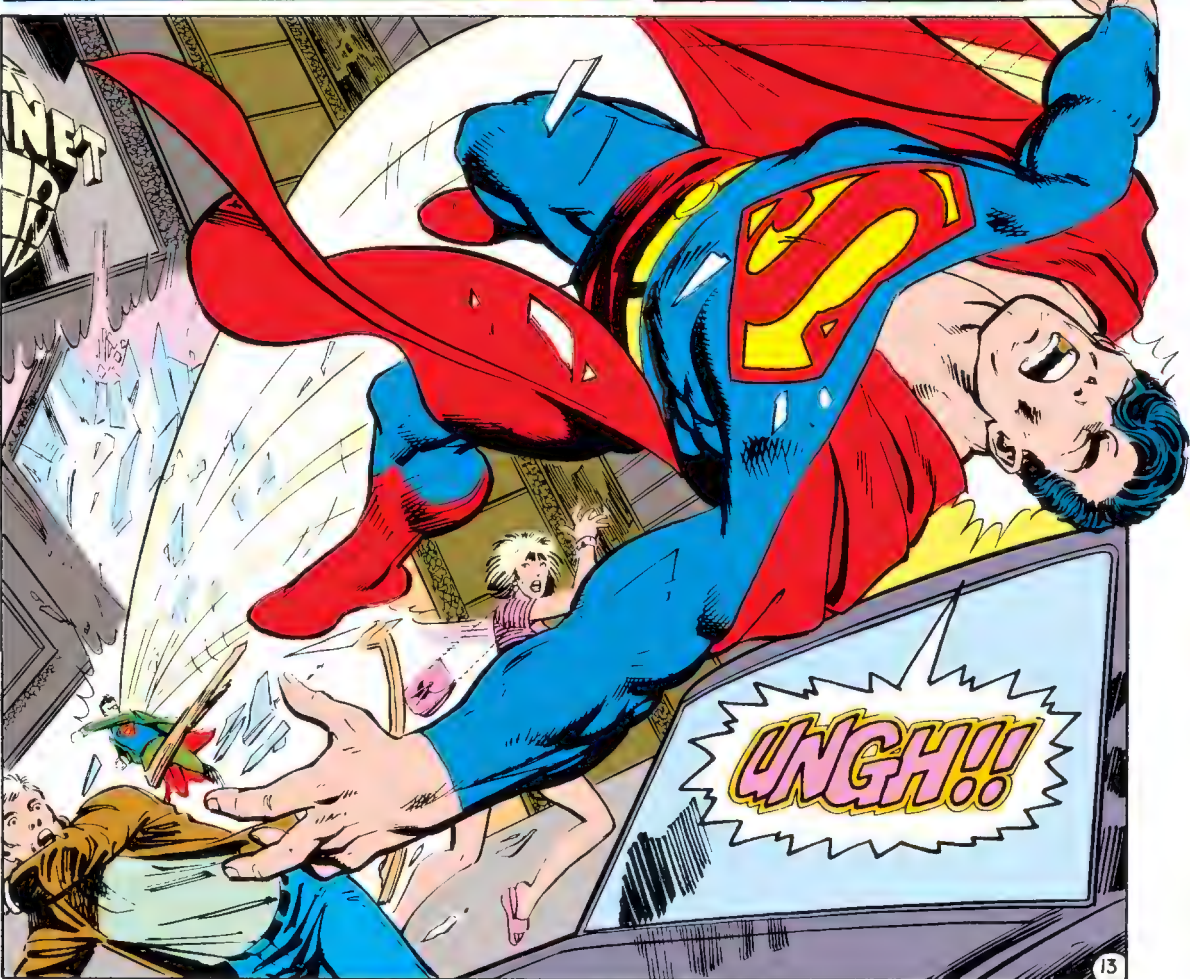
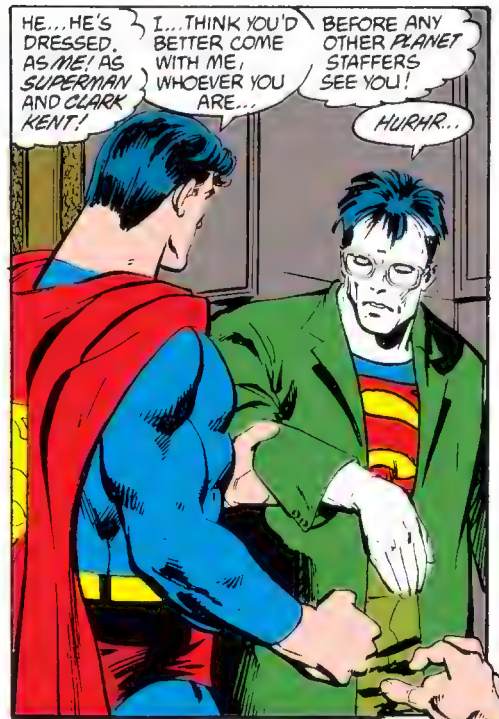
GREETINGS,
WAGE-SLAVES.
WHAT'S NEWS?

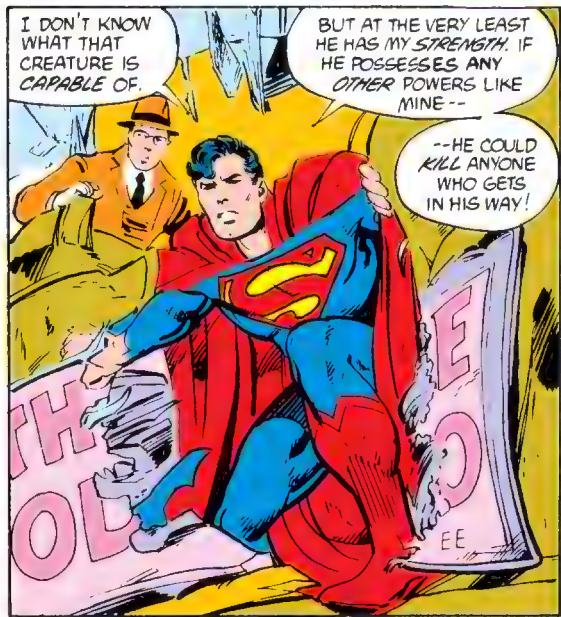
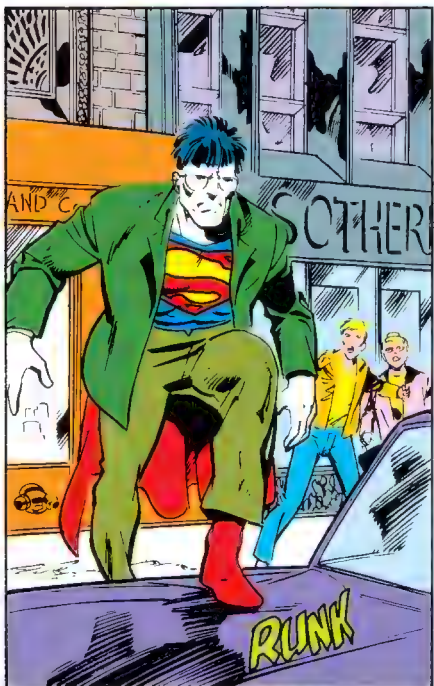
=:sigh=:

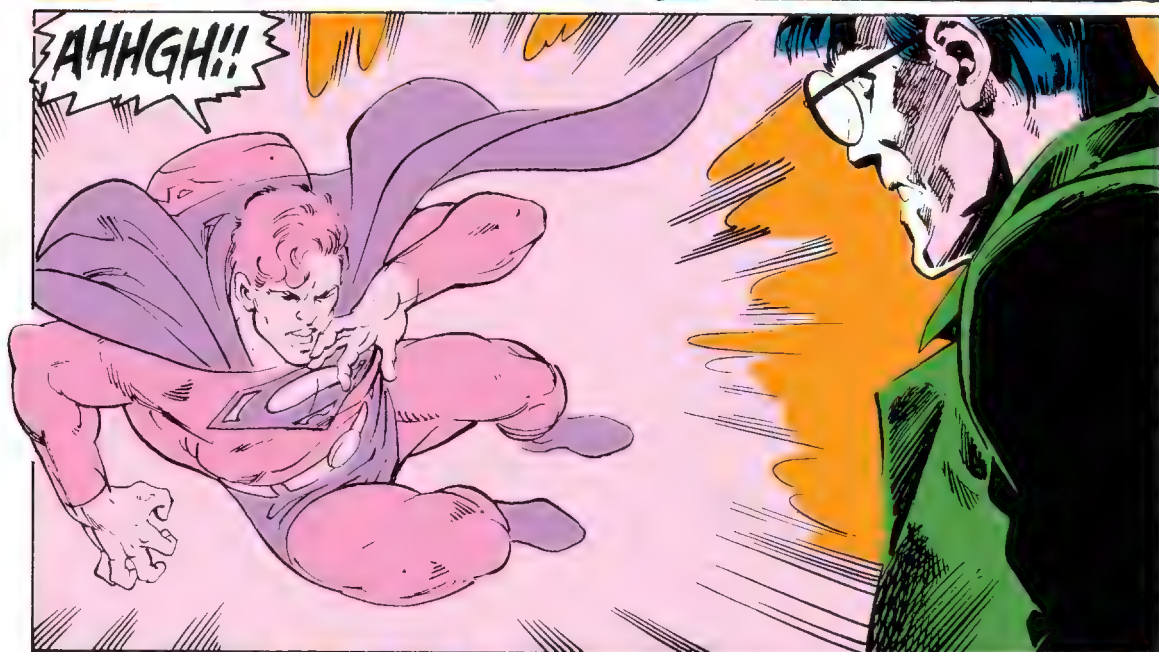
IT WOULD
BE NEWS IF YOU
CAME IN ONE
MORNING AND
DIDN'T SAY
THAT, LOIS.







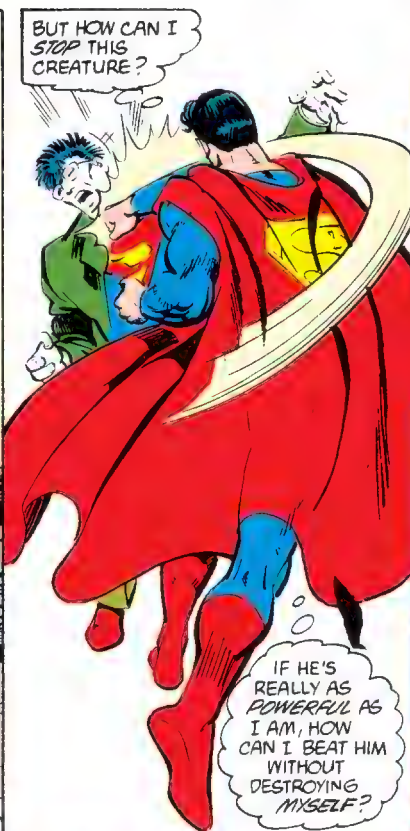






NOW... GOT TO
PRESS MY
ADVANTAGE.

MOVE IN *FAST*,
WHILE HE'S STILL
OFF-BALANCE.



BUT HOW CAN I
STOP THIS
CREATURE?

IF HE'S
REALLY AS
POWERFUL AS
I AM, HOW
CAN I BEAT HIM
WITHOUT
DESTROYING
MYSELF?



HE'S AT LEAST AS
INVULNERABLE
AS ME.

EXCEPT... WHAT'S
THE *DUST* THAT
FLIES OFF HIM AT
EVERY IMPACT?



IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE
CREATURE IS... *CRUMBLING*...?

OH NO!
LOIS!

UINGH!!



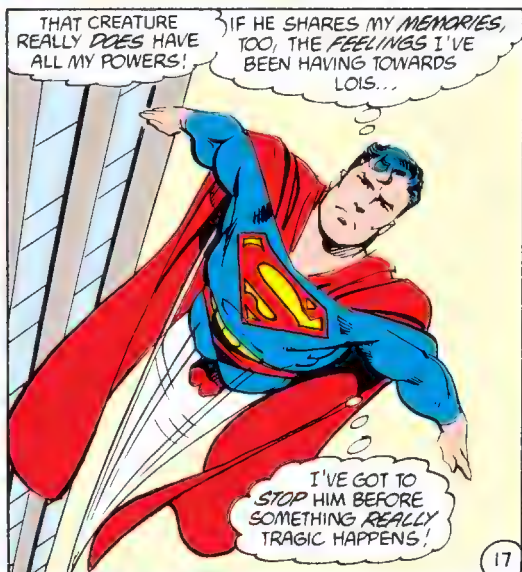
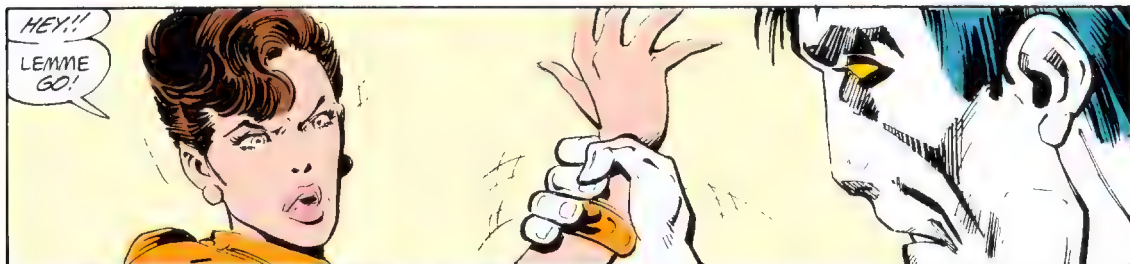
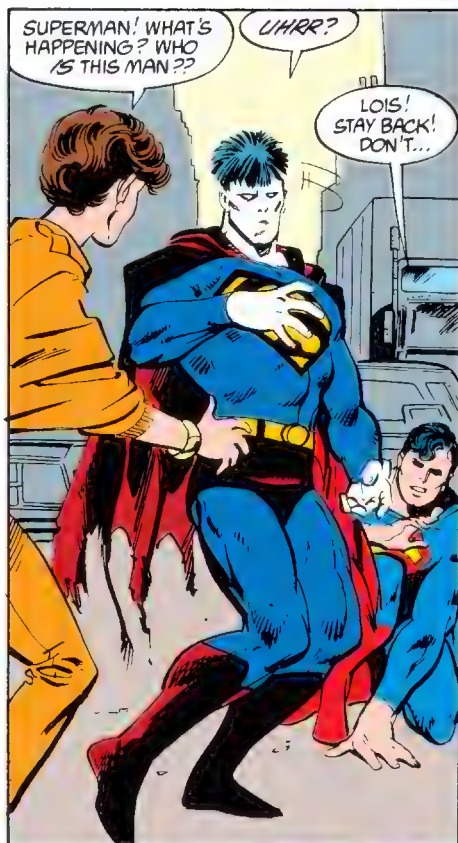
SO FAR, NO ONE HAS
GUESSED "SUPERMAN"
IS JUST THE NAME I
USE WHEN I'M NOT
BEING CLARK KENT.

THE LAST THING I NEED IS
FOR LOIS TO SEE THIS
CREATURE DRESSED AS *BOTH*
MY IDENTITIES. SHE'S FAR TOO
BRIGHT NOT TO PUT TWO
AND TWO TOGETHER...



... HOWEVER *ILLOGICAL*
THAT ADDITION MIGHT
SEEM.

SO LET'S SEE HOW
OUR FRIEND LIKES BEING
ON THE *RECEIVING* END
OF MY HEAT-VISION!





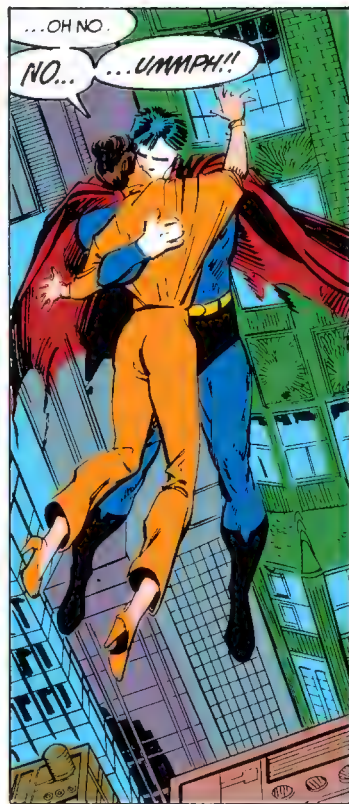
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS THING IS, OR WHERE IT CAME FROM, BUT IT SEEMS TO THINK IT'S SUPERMAN. MAYBE I CAN REASON WITH IT...

ER... LISTEN... CAN WE TALK? I'M LOIS LANE. I'M A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY PLANET.

I...

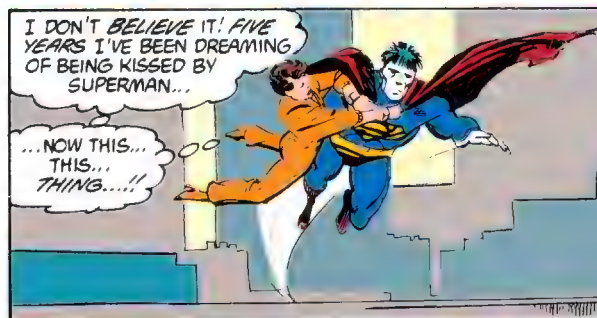


...ER...



...OH NO...

NO... ...UMMPH!!



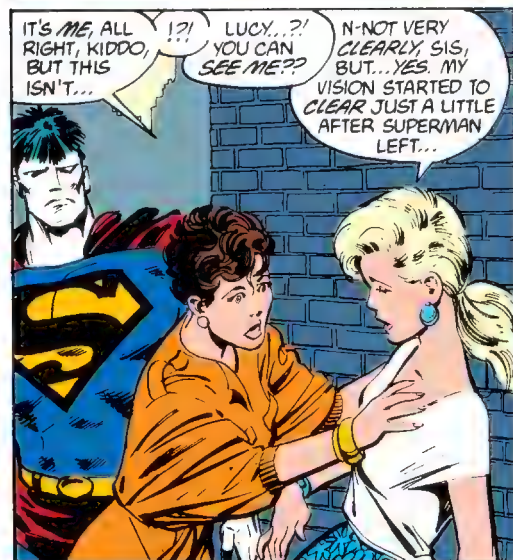
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! FIVE YEARS I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF BEING KISSED BY SUPERMAN...

...NOW THIS... THIS... THING...!!

LOIS?

LOIS, IS THAT YOU?

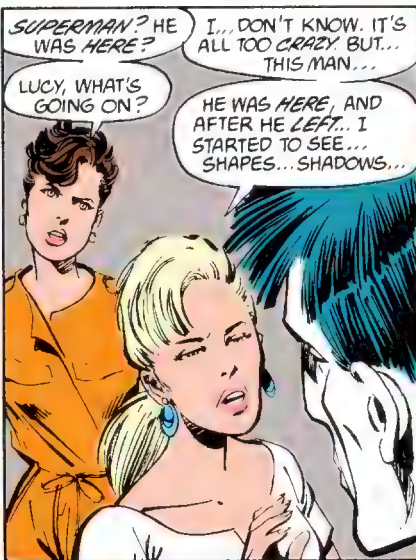
IS THAT SUPERMAN?



IT'S ME, ALL RIGHT, KIDDO, BUT THIS ISN'T...

!?! LUCY...? YOU CAN SEE ME??

N-NOT VERY CLEARLY, SIS, BUT... YES. MY VISION STARTED TO CLEAR JUST A LITTLE AFTER SUPERMAN LEFT...



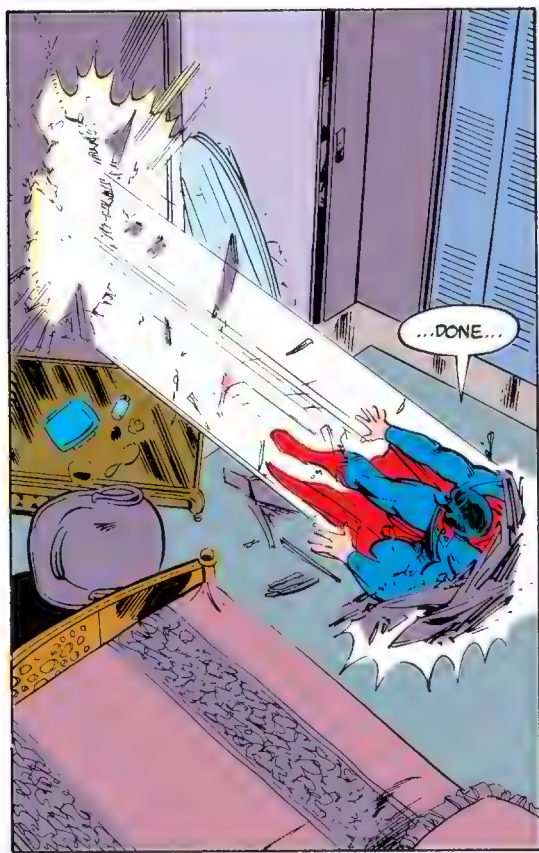
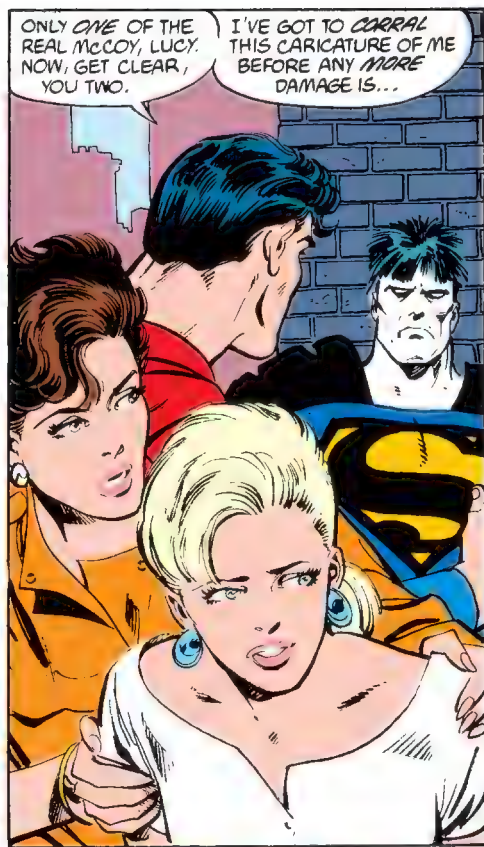
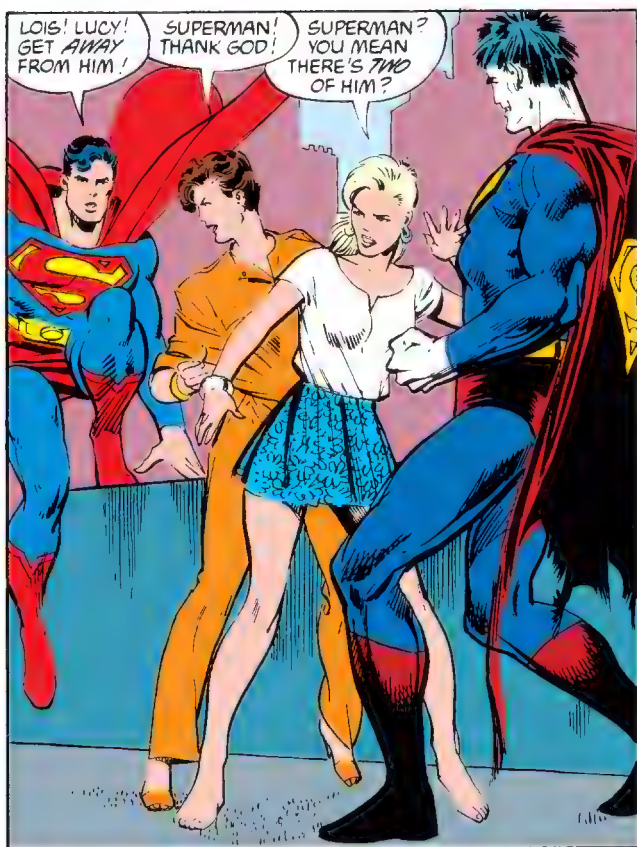
SUPERMAN? HE WAS HERE?

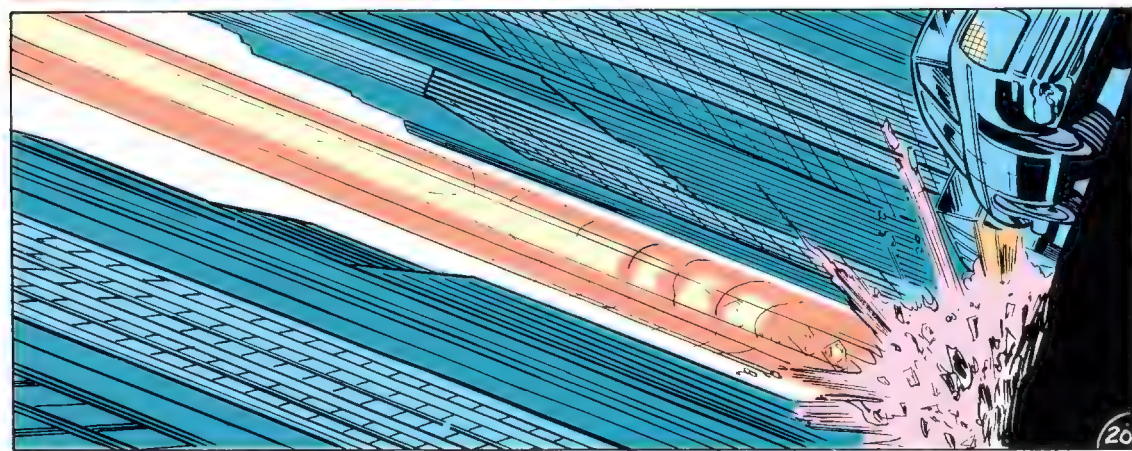
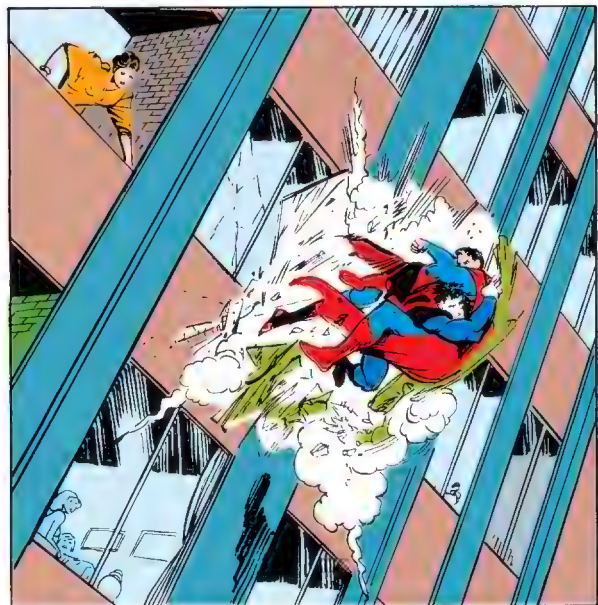
LUCY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

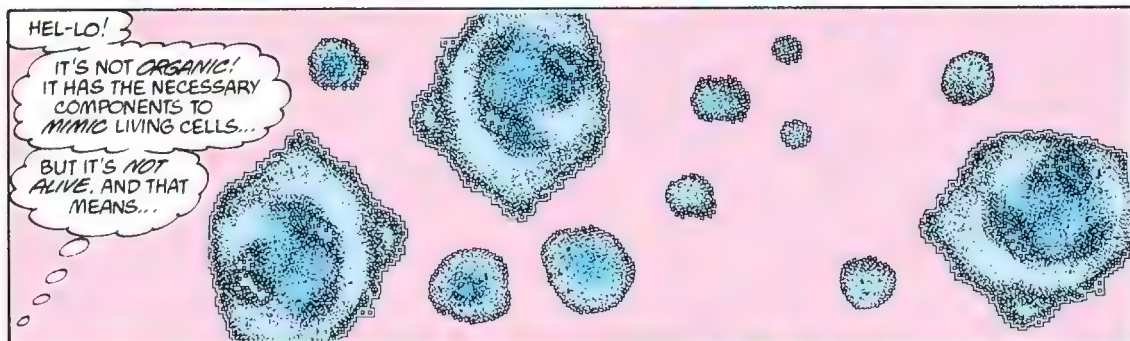
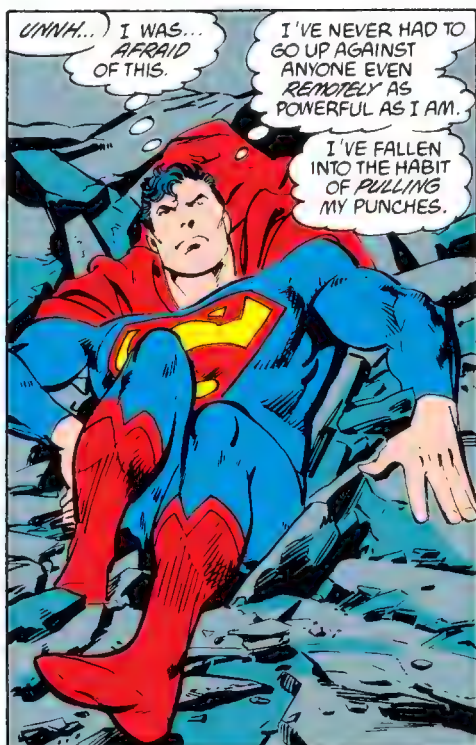
I... DON'T KNOW. IT'S ALL TOO CRAZY BUT... THIS MAN...

HE WAS HERE, AND AFTER HE LEFT... I STARTED TO SEE... SHAPES... SHADOWS...

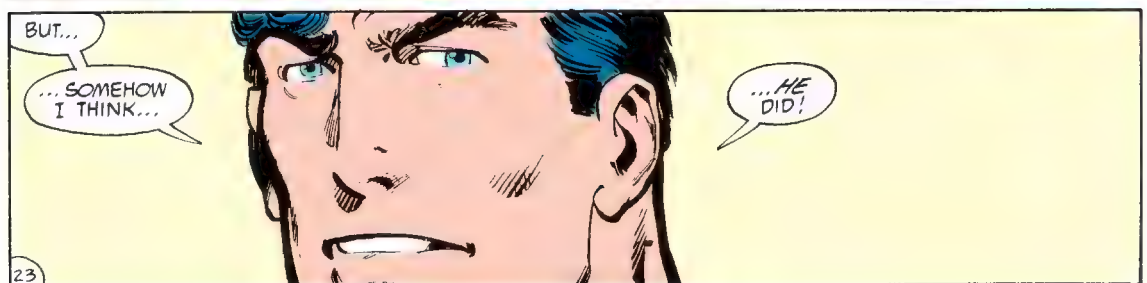
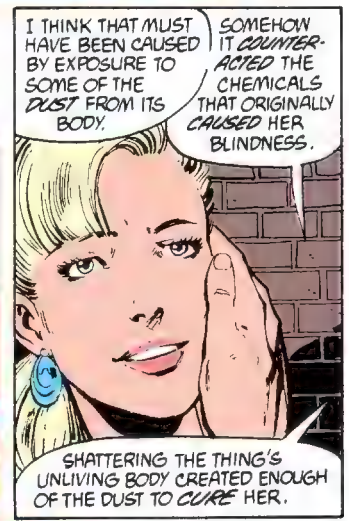
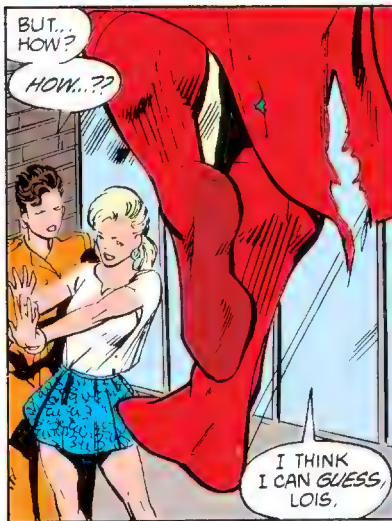
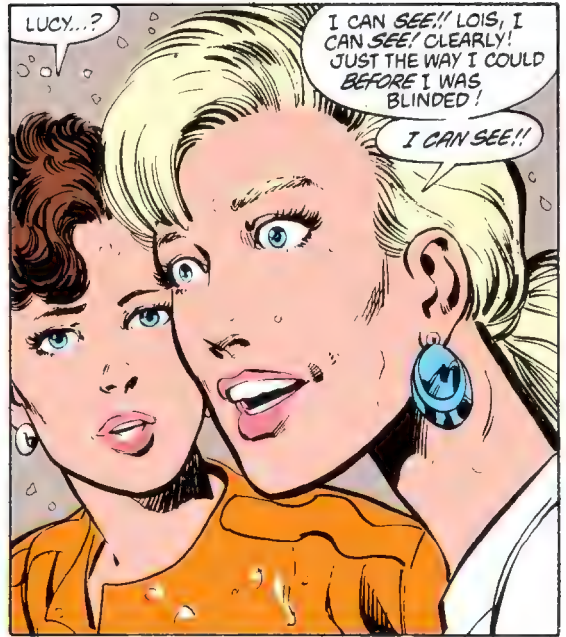












PRESENTING A SPECIAL BOOK-LENGTH RETELLING OF ONE OF THE CLASSIC...

TALES OF THE ^{NEW} GODS

JOHN BYRNE
STORY*, PENCILS,
INKS AND LETTERING

PAUL
KUPPERBERG
EDITOR

JACK
KIRBY
CREATOR

L. A.
WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

NOELLE
GIDDINGS
COLORING

THE GODS THEMSELVES

IN THE SUMMER SKIES OVER
METROPOLIS APPEARS AN
INCREASINGLY FAMILIAR
FIGURE.

A SUPERHERO, PERHAPS
THE GREATEST OF THAT
PROUD BREED OF MEN AND
WOMEN.

BUT TODAY, ALSO A MAN
WHO IS TROUBLED...

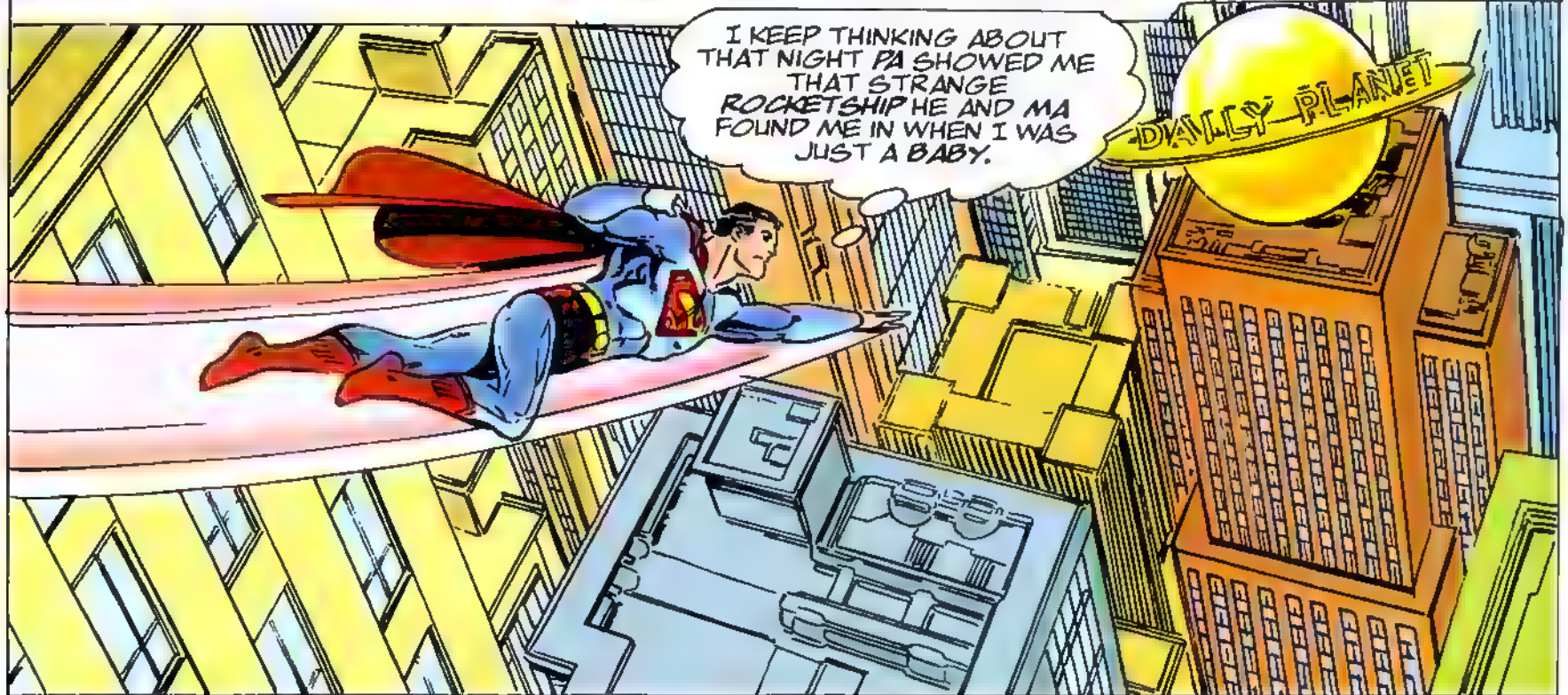
*BASED ON THE WORK
ORIGINALLY APPEARING IN
FOREVER PEOPLE #1 AND
JIMMY OLSEN #149

JACK KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD 20. October, 1998. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019 Copyright © 1998 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper. Printed in Canada.

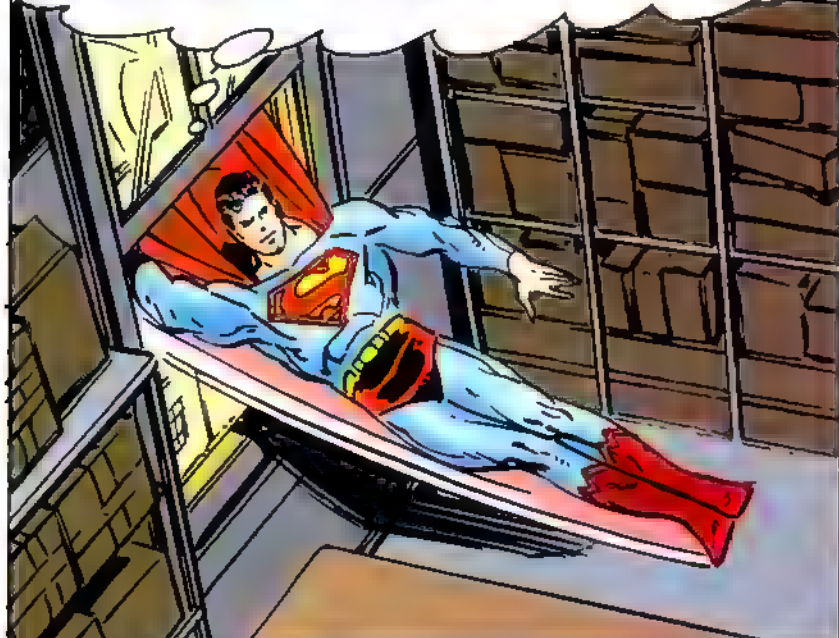
DC COMICS
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TRoubled AS HE HAS BEEN ON MANY DAYS SINCE THAT EVENING, SOME EIGHT YEARS PAST, WHEN THE MAN HE THOUGHT OF AS HIS FATHER REVEALED TO HIM A LIFELONG SECRET...



I'VE RUN THAT SCENE THROUGH MY HEAD A THOUSAND TIMES SINCE THAT NIGHT, AND THE ANSWER TO MY PERSONAL MYSTERY NEVER BECOMES ANY CLEARER.*



*THAT'S RIGHT! THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE LEGENDARY MAN OF STEEL MINISERIES! - P.K.

BUT TODAY... FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT TODAY.

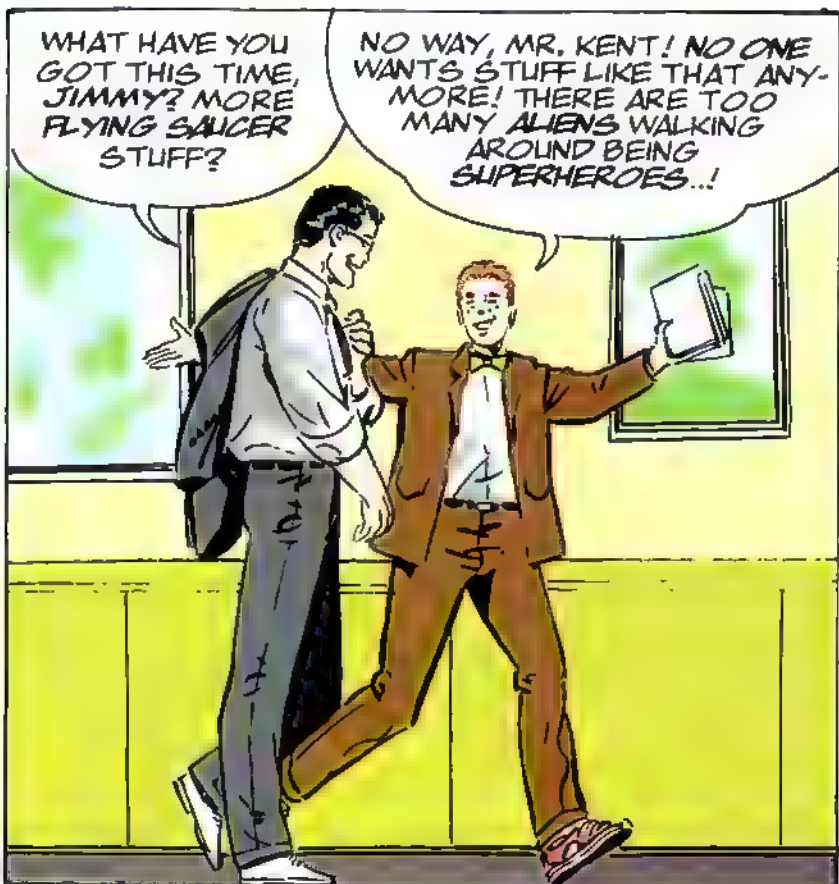
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOME KIND OF... PREMONITION...

HEY, MR. KENT! GET A LOAD OF THESE PICTURES!



WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THIS TIME, JIMMY? MORE FLYING SAUCER STUFF?

NO WAY, MR. KENT! NO ONE WANTS STUFF LIKE THAT ANYMORE! THERE ARE TOO MANY ALIENS WALKING AROUND BEING SUPERHEROES...!

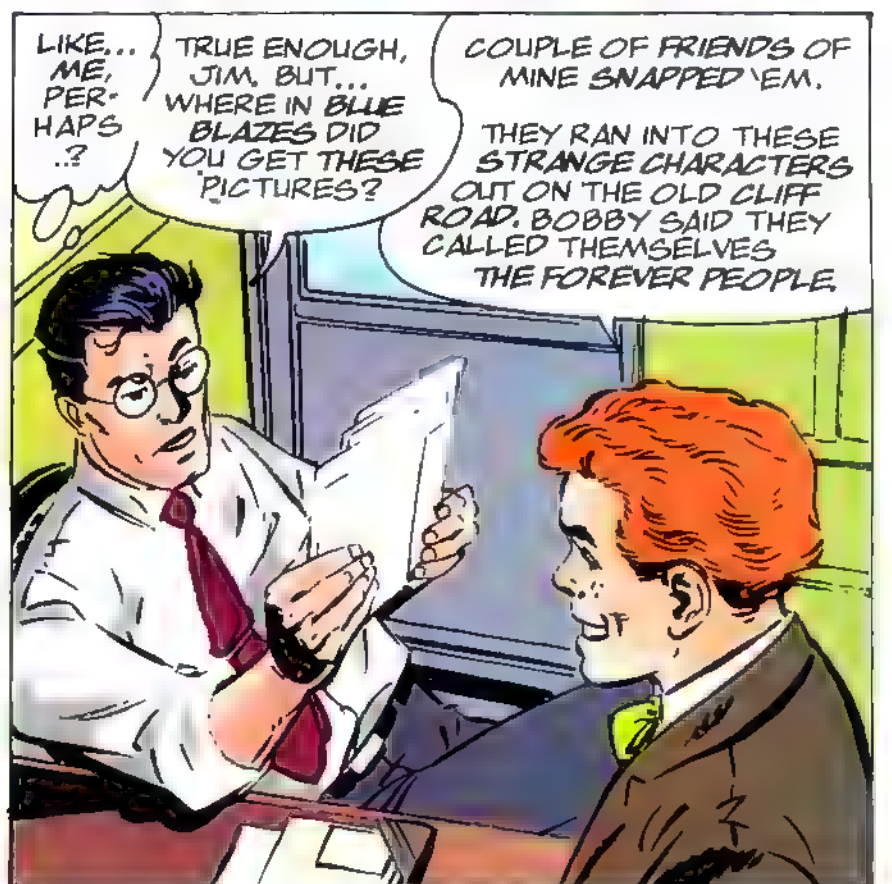


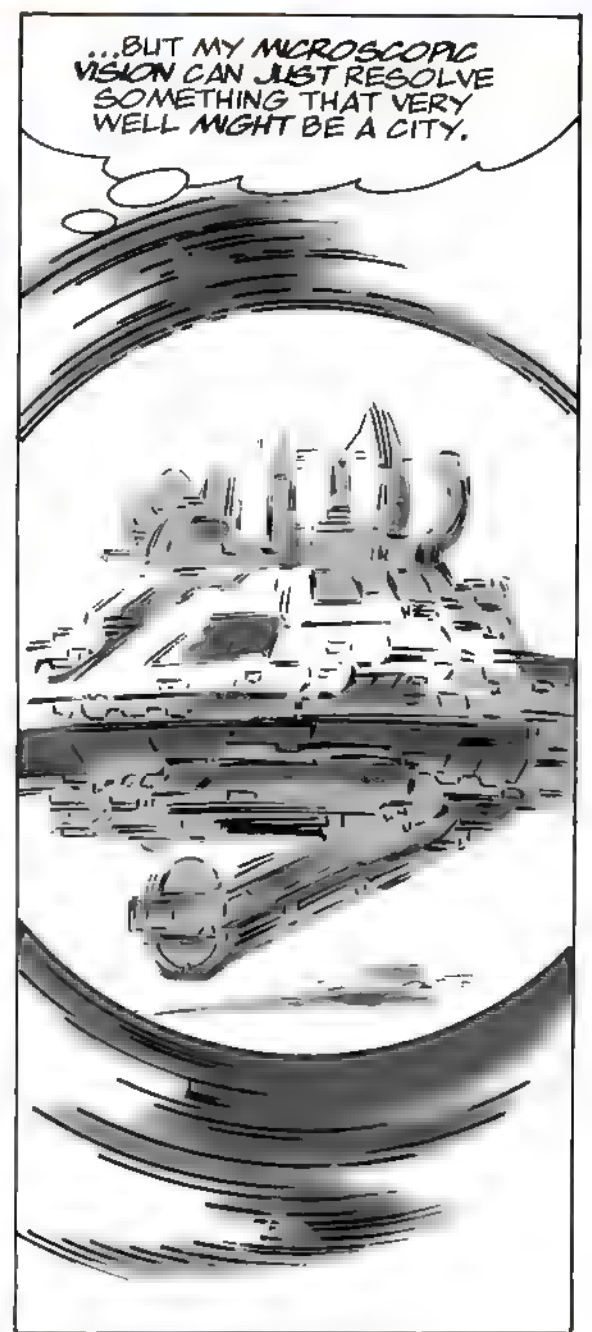
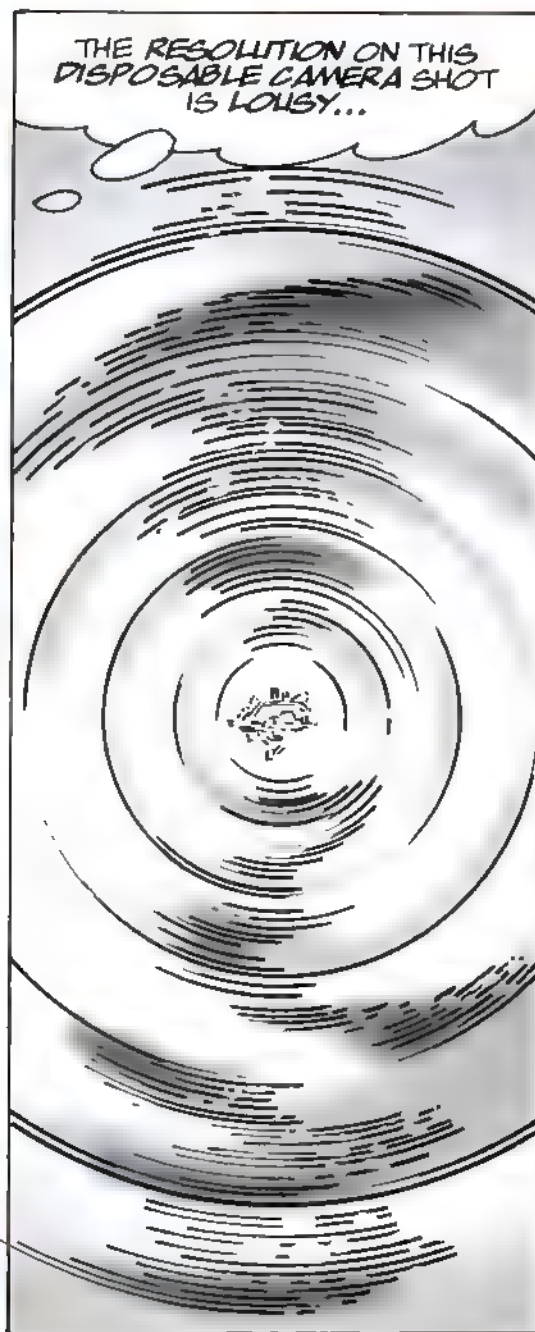
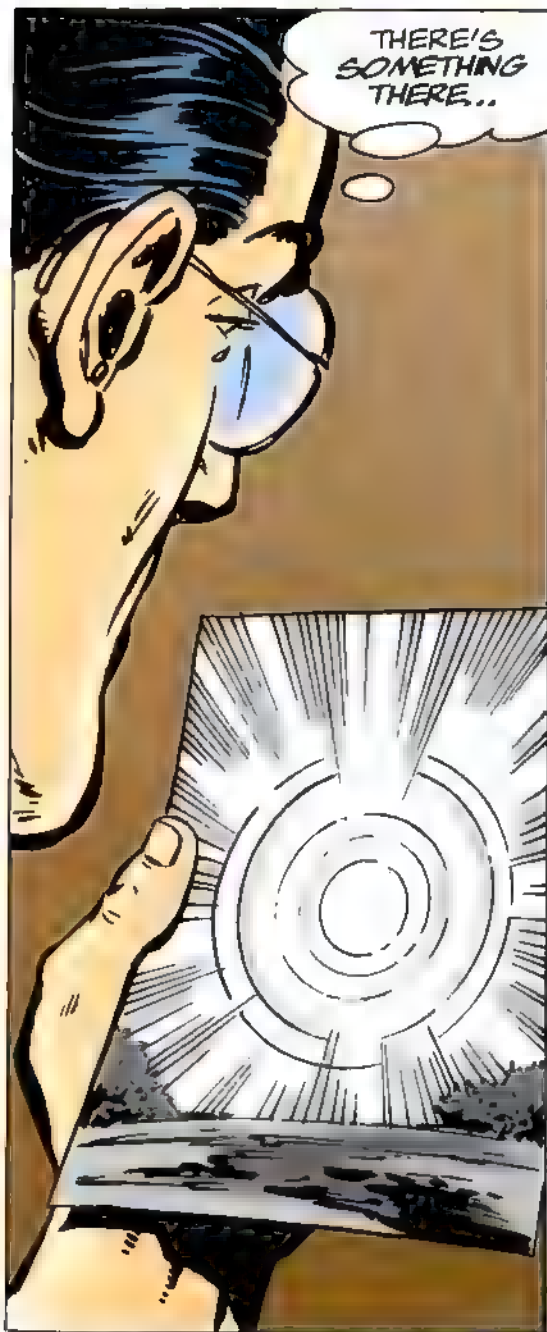
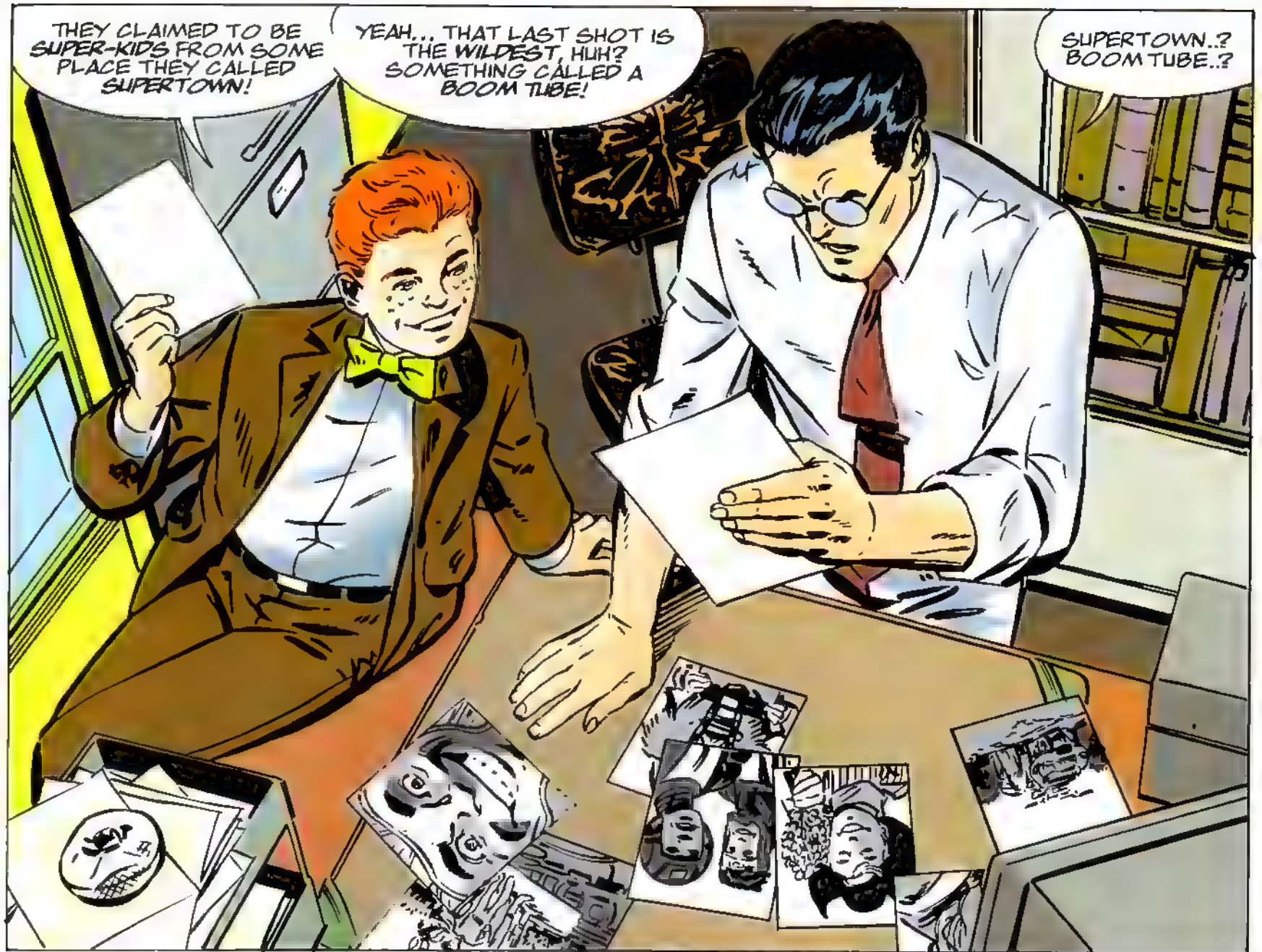
LIKE... ME, PERHAPS...?

TRUE ENOUGH, JIM, BUT... WHERE IN BLUE BLAZES DID YOU GET THESE PICTURES?

COUPLE OF FRIENDS OF MINE SNAPPED 'EM.

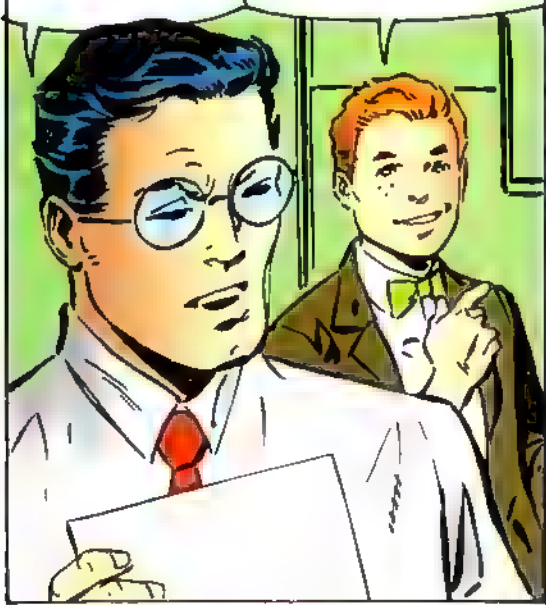
THEY RAN INTO THESE STRANGE CHARACTERS OUT ON THE OLD CLIFF ROAD. BOBBY SAID THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE FOREVER PEOPLE.





A CITY FLOATING IN MIDAIR!
THE WHOLE STORY NOW, JIM. TELL ME EVERYTHING YOUR FRIENDS TOLD YOU.

SURE... BOBBY AND HIS GIRLFRIEND LAURIE WERE OUT ON A DATE LAST NIGHT...

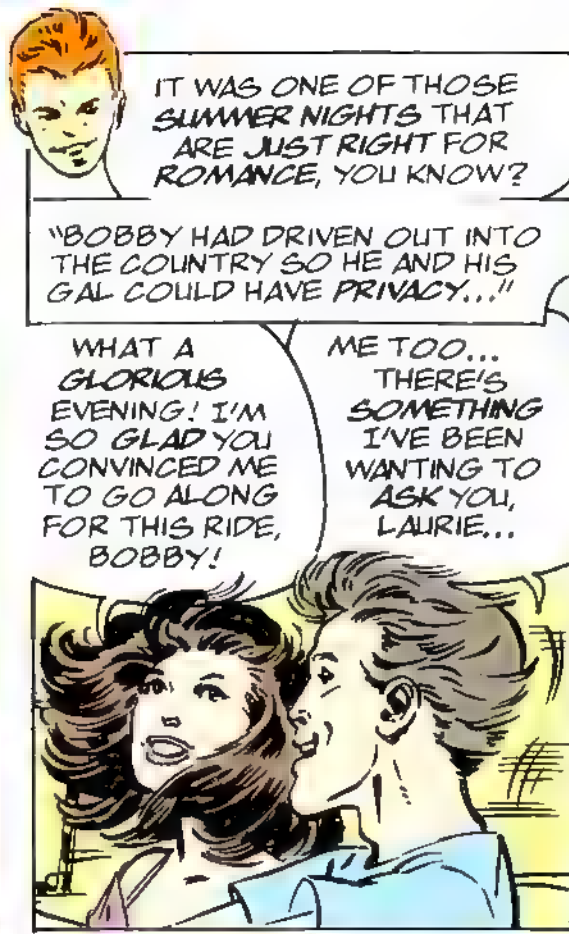


IT WAS ONE OF THOSE SUMMER NIGHTS THAT ARE JUST RIGHT FOR ROMANCE, YOU KNOW?

"BOBBY HAD DRIVEN OUT INTO THE COUNTRY SO HE AND HIS GAL COULD HAVE PRIVACY..."

WHAT A GLORIOUS EVENING! I'M SO GLAD YOU CONVINCED ME TO GO ALONG FOR THIS RIDE, BOBBY!

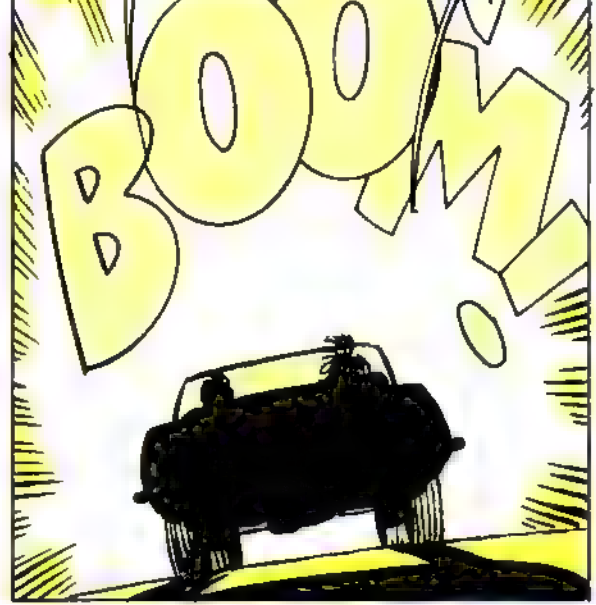
ME TOO... THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU, LAURIE...



I WAS THINKING... WHEN WE FINISH COLLEGE, MAYBE YOU AND ME...

BOBBY! LOOK OUT!!

BOOM!!

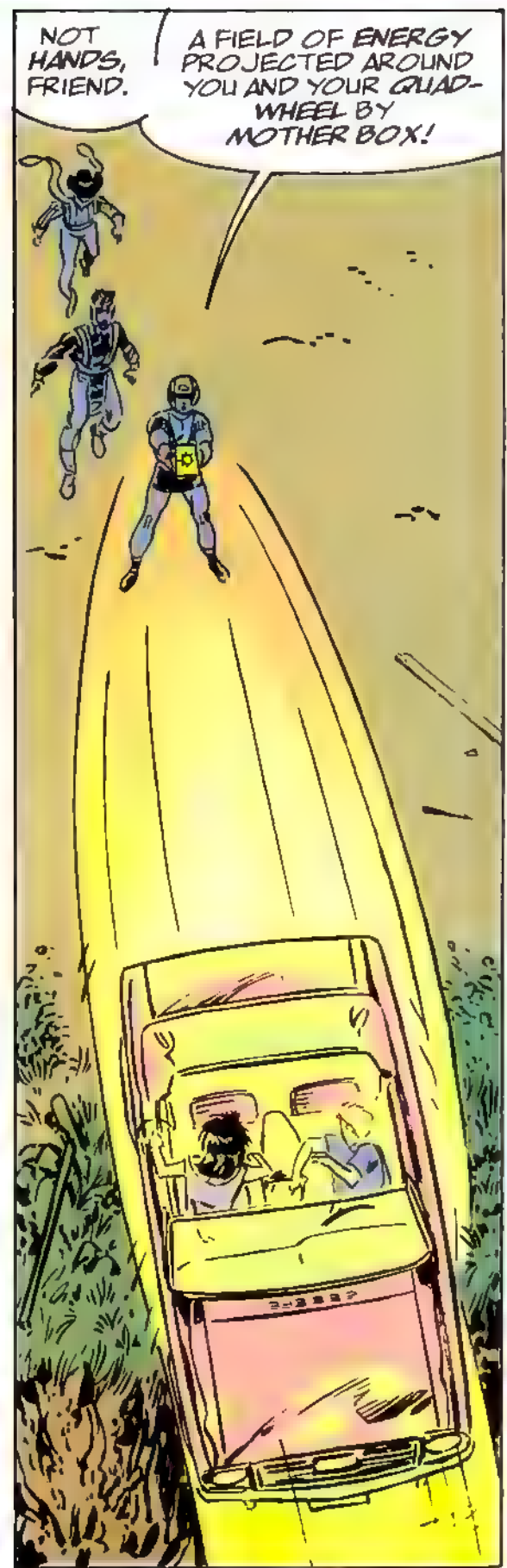
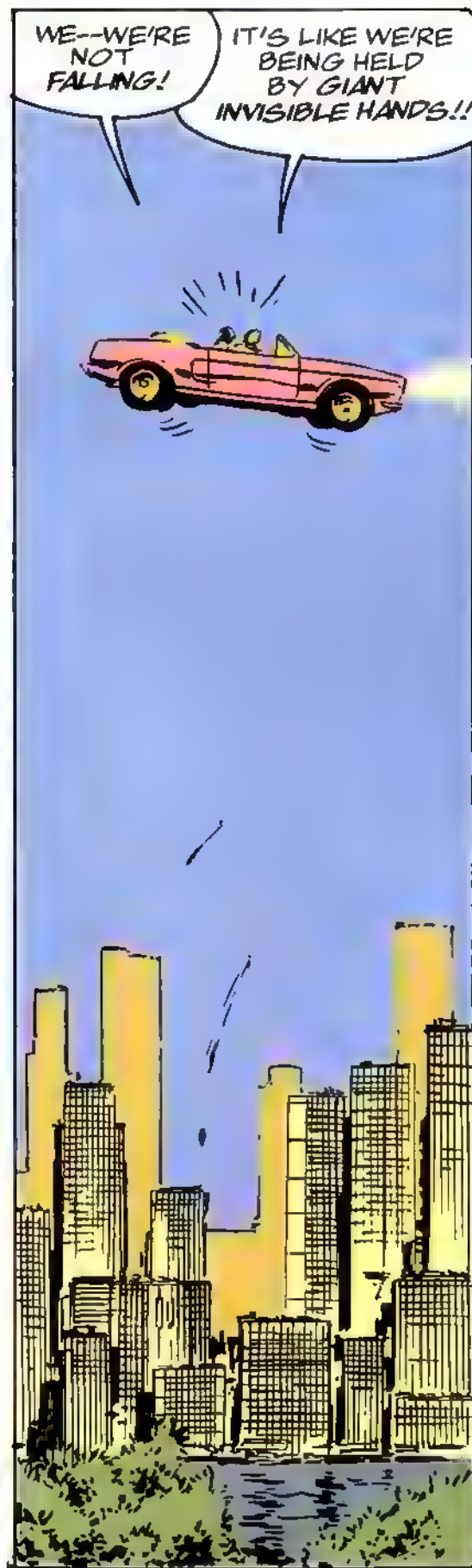
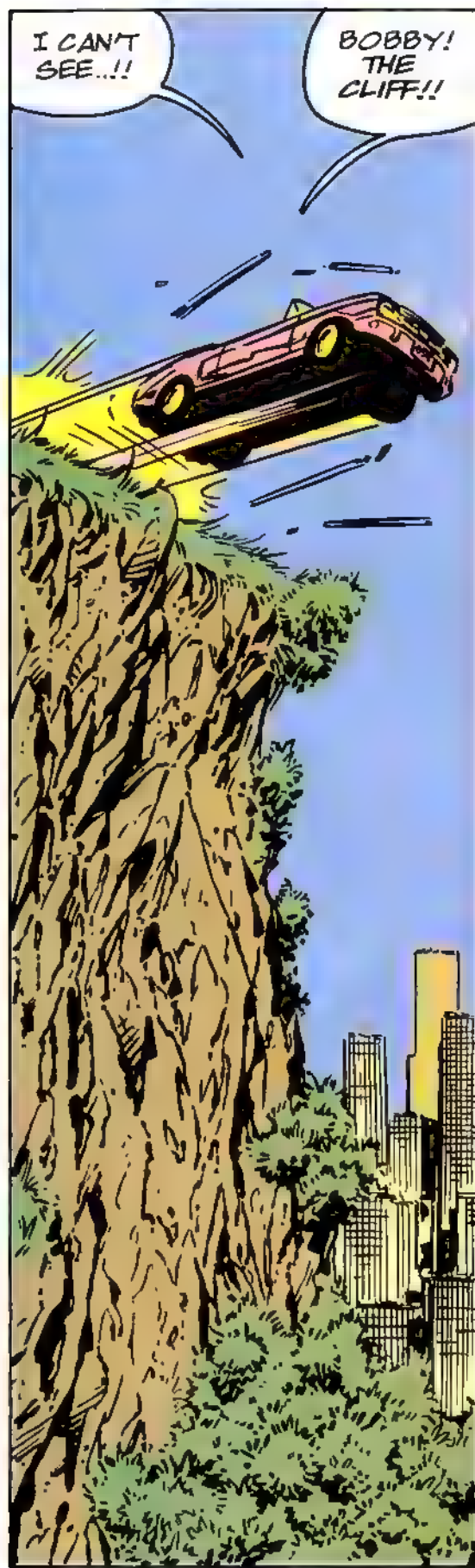
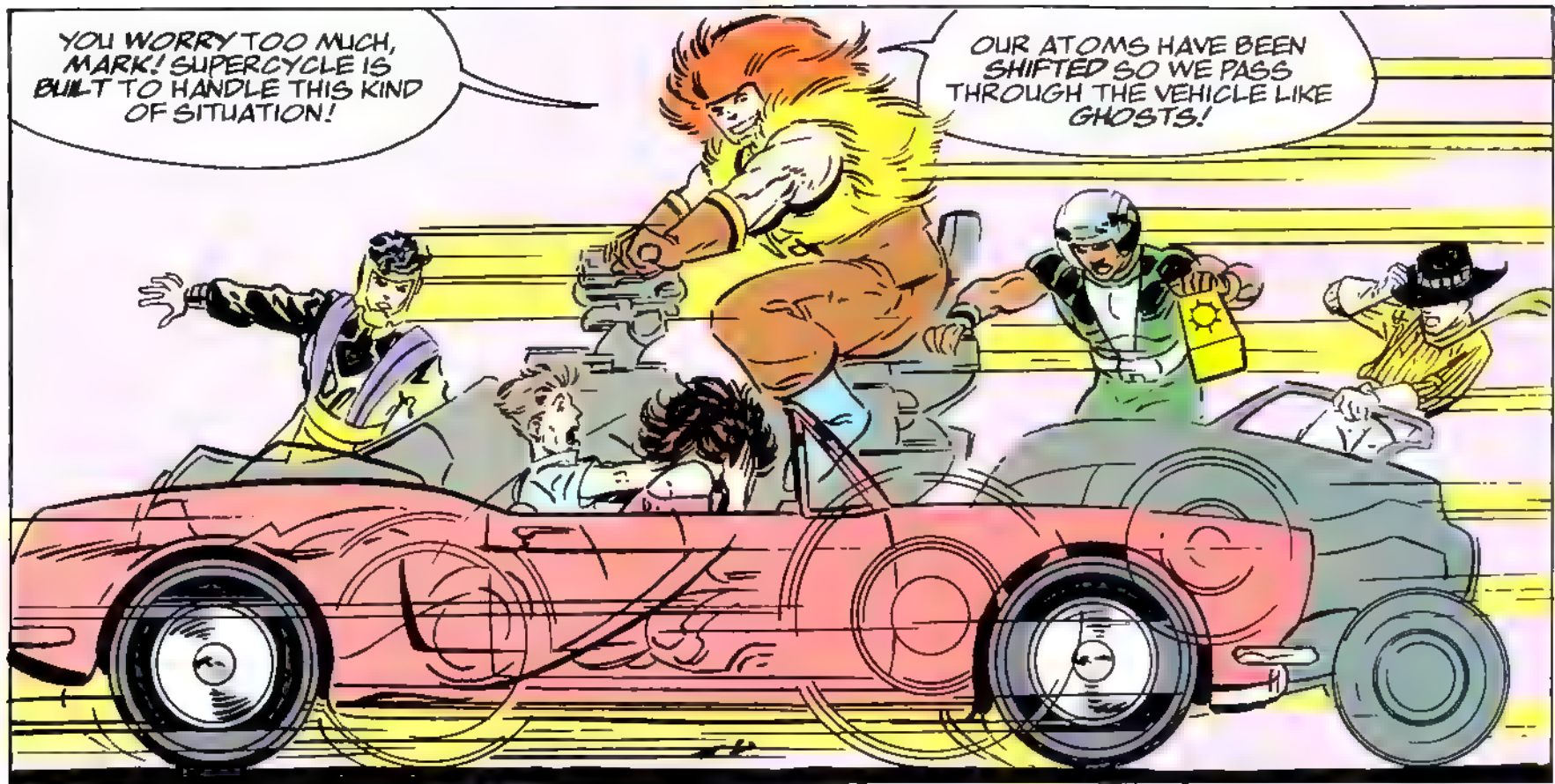


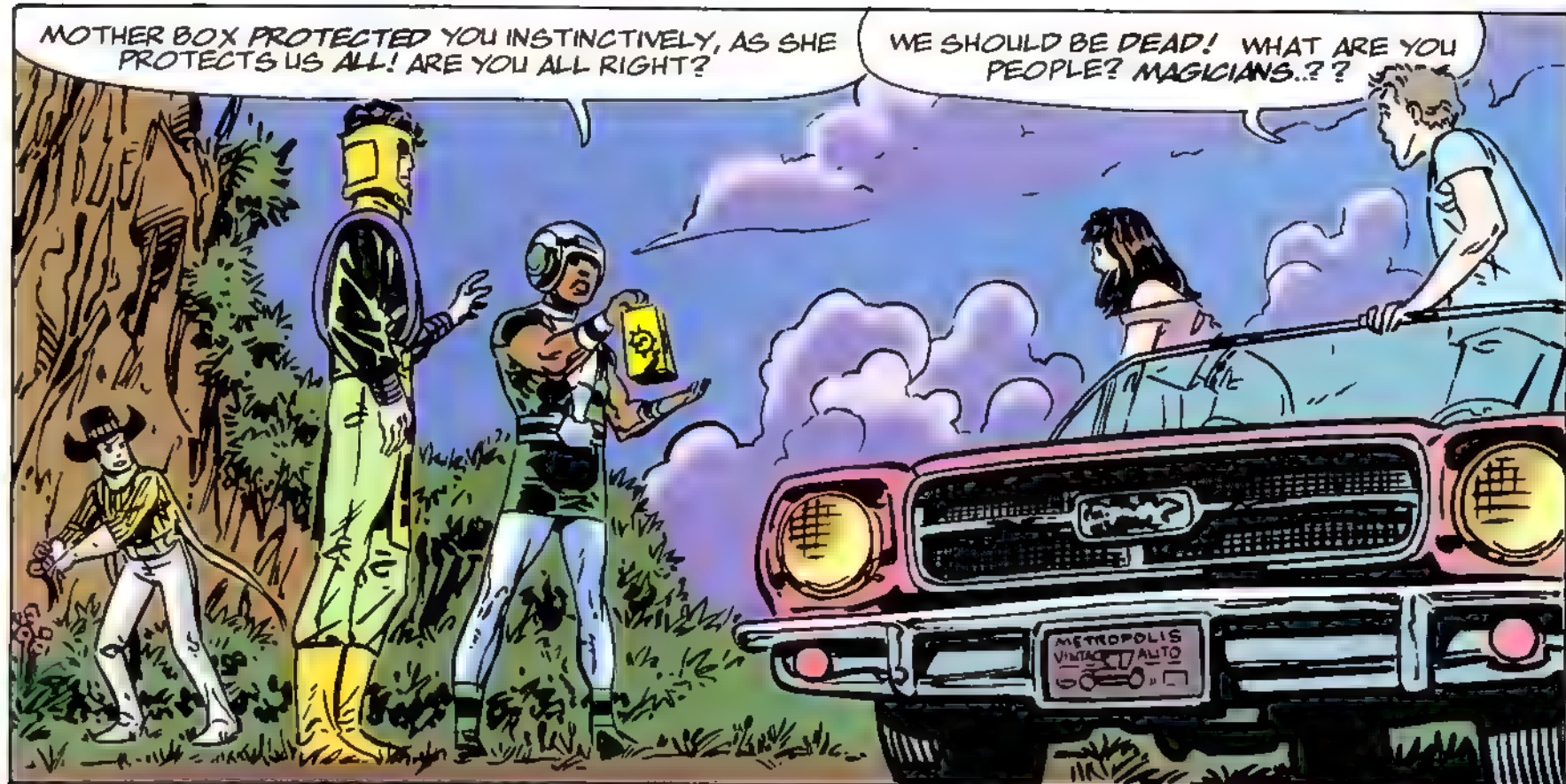
WE'RE THROUGH THE BOOM TUBE!

BIG BEAR GOT YOU HERE, VYKIN! REMEMBER THAT!

BIG BEAR! YOU GRANITE HEAD! THERE'S A VEHICLE IN OUR PATH! YOU DIDN'T PLOT THE COURSE WITH MOTHER BOX!







MOTHER BOX PROTECTED YOU INSTINCTIVELY, AS SHE PROTECTS US ALL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

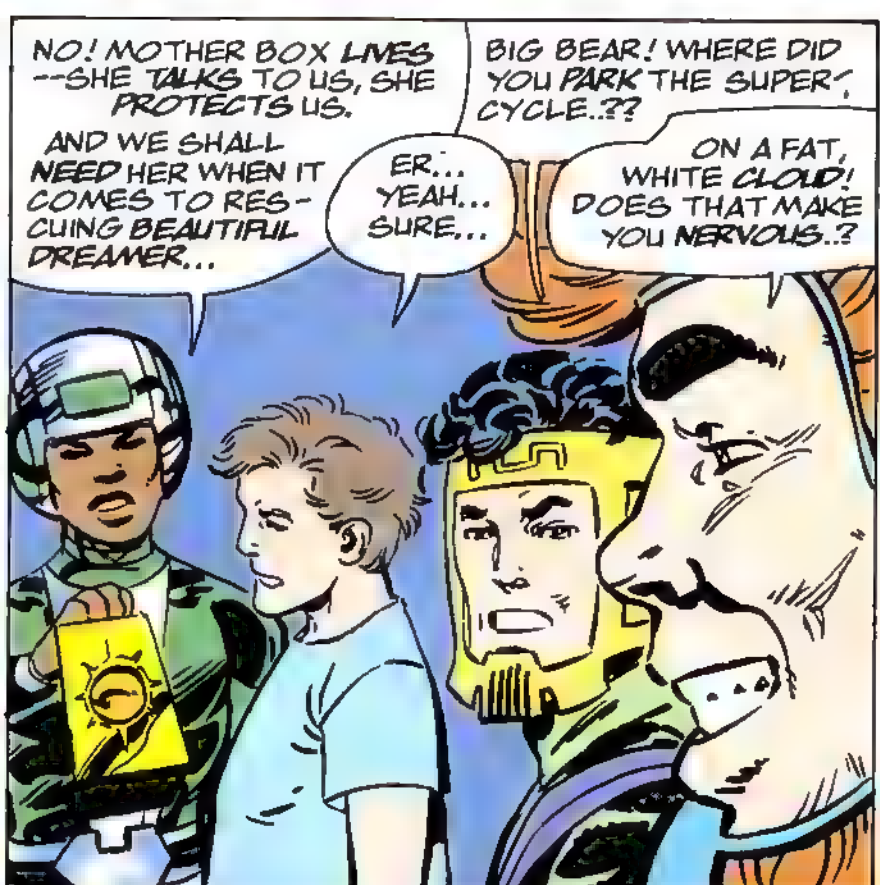
WE SHOULD BE DEAD! WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE? MAGICIANS...??



I AM CALLED VYKIN THE BLACK LISTEN NOW... MOTHER BOX IS APOLOGIZING FOR THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT...

...ER... DON'T GIVE AWAY ALL OUR... TRADE SECRETS, VYKIN.

WHAT VYKIN MEANS IS THAT MOTHER BOX IS... A COMPUTER, AND...



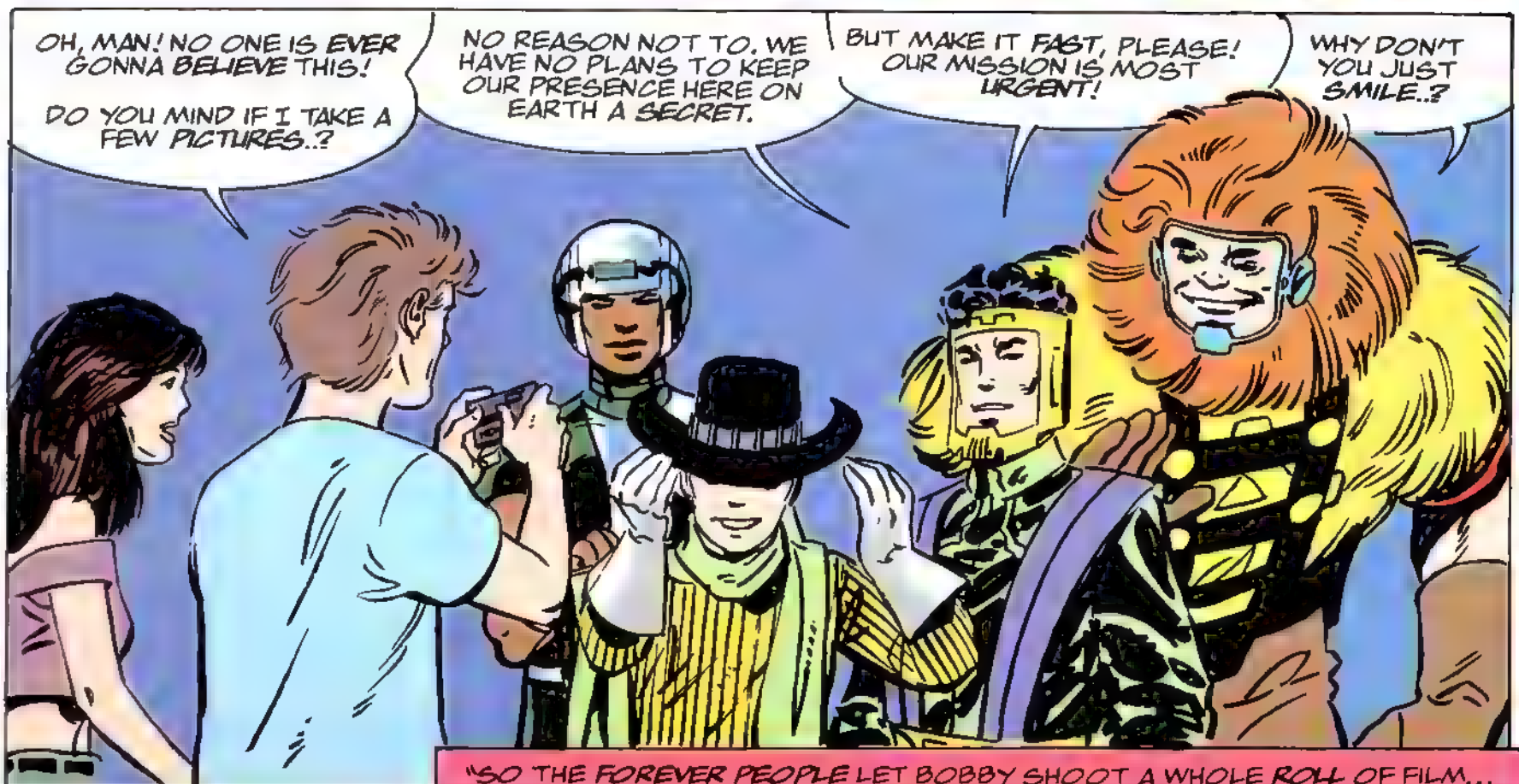
NO! MOTHER BOX LIVES --SHE TALKS TO US, SHE PROTECTS US.

AND WE SHALL NEED HER WHEN IT COMES TO RESCUING BEAUTIFUL DREAMER...

BIG BEAR! WHERE DID YOU PARK THE SUPER CYCLE...??

ER... YEAH... SURE...

ON A FAT, WHITE CLOUD! DOES THAT MAKE YOU NERVOUS...?



OH, MAN! NO ONE IS EVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS!

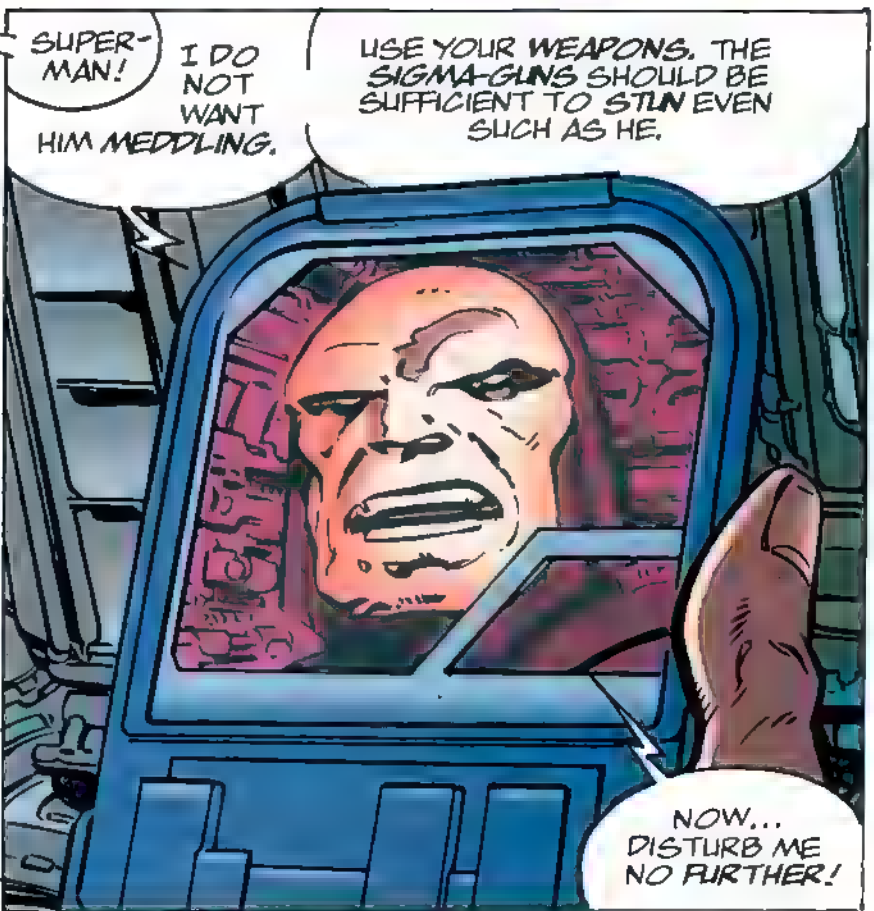
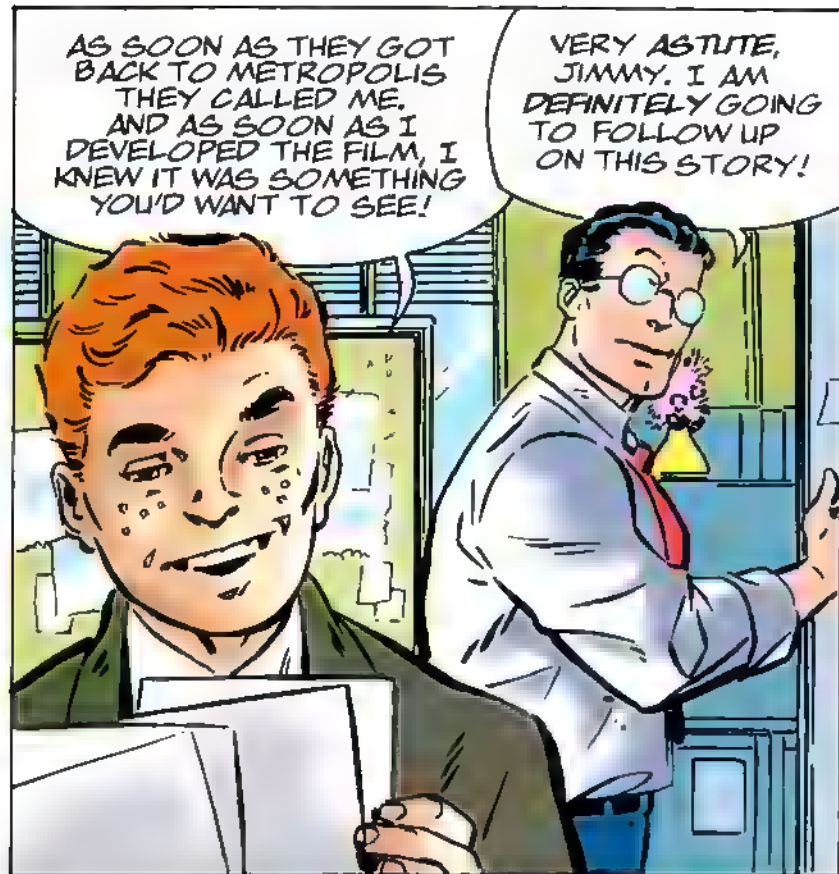
DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE A FEW PICTURES...?

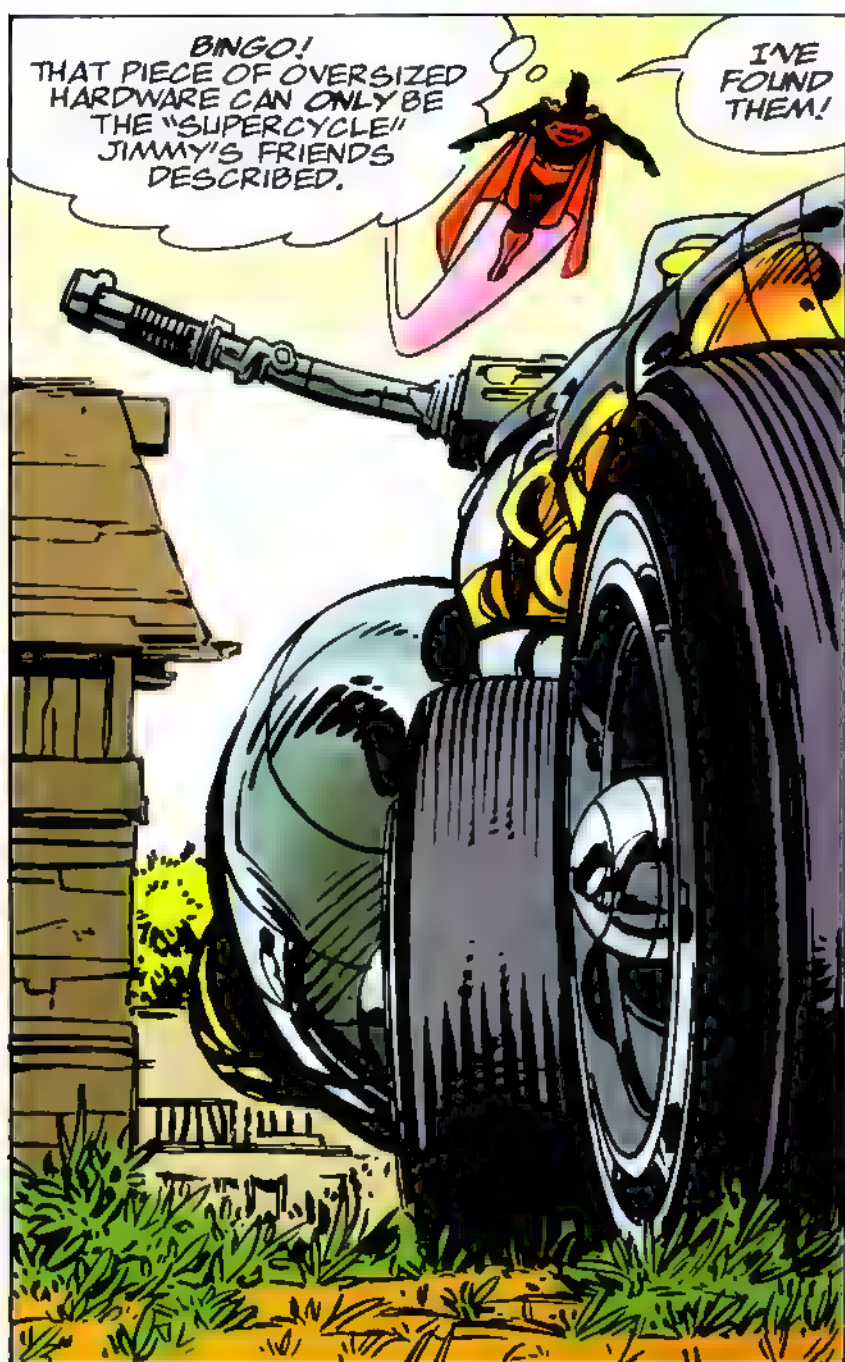
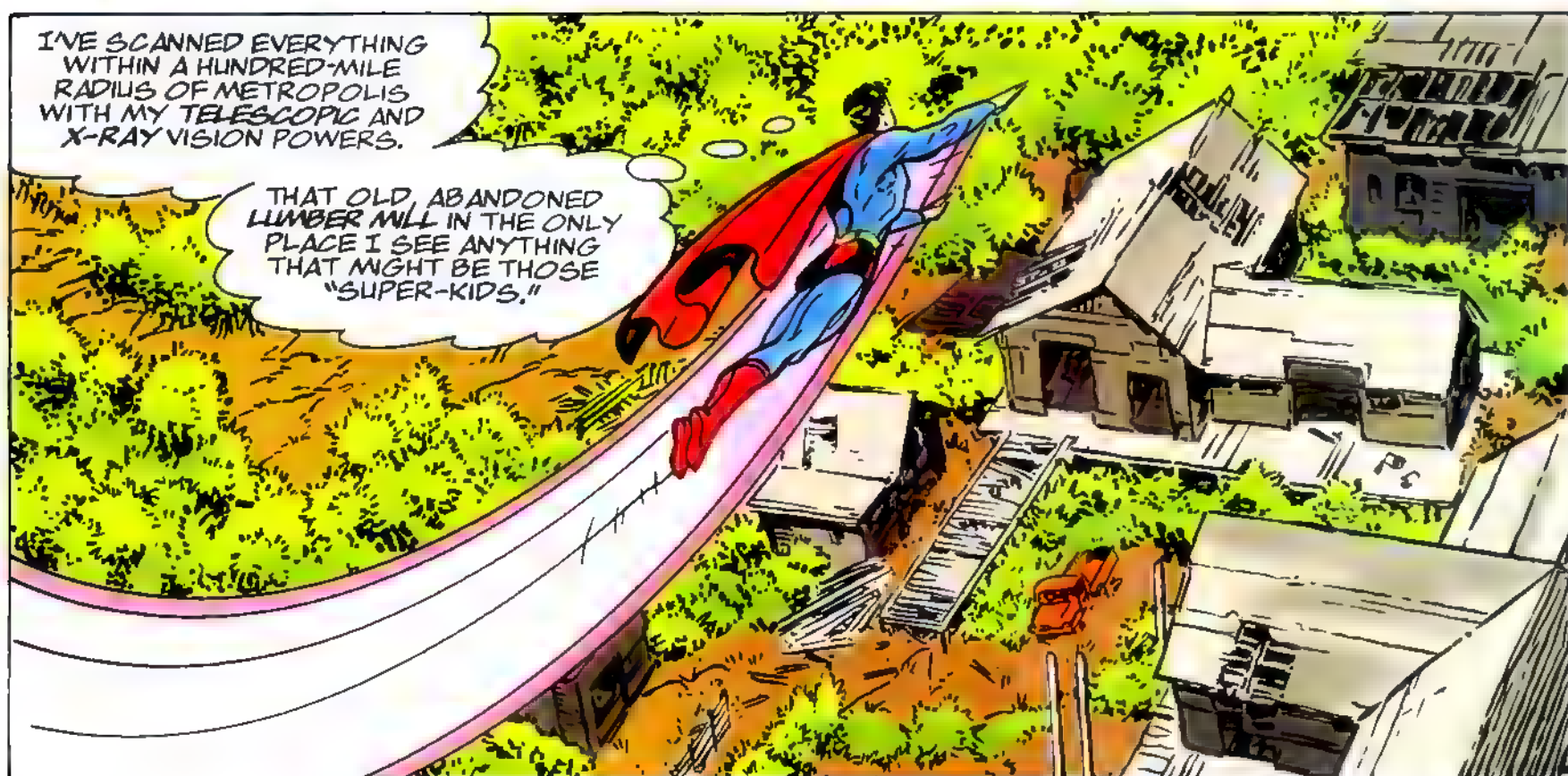
NO REASON NOT TO. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO KEEP OUR PRESENCE HERE ON EARTH A SECRET.

BUT MAKE IT FAST, PLEASE! OUR MISSION IS MOST URGENT!

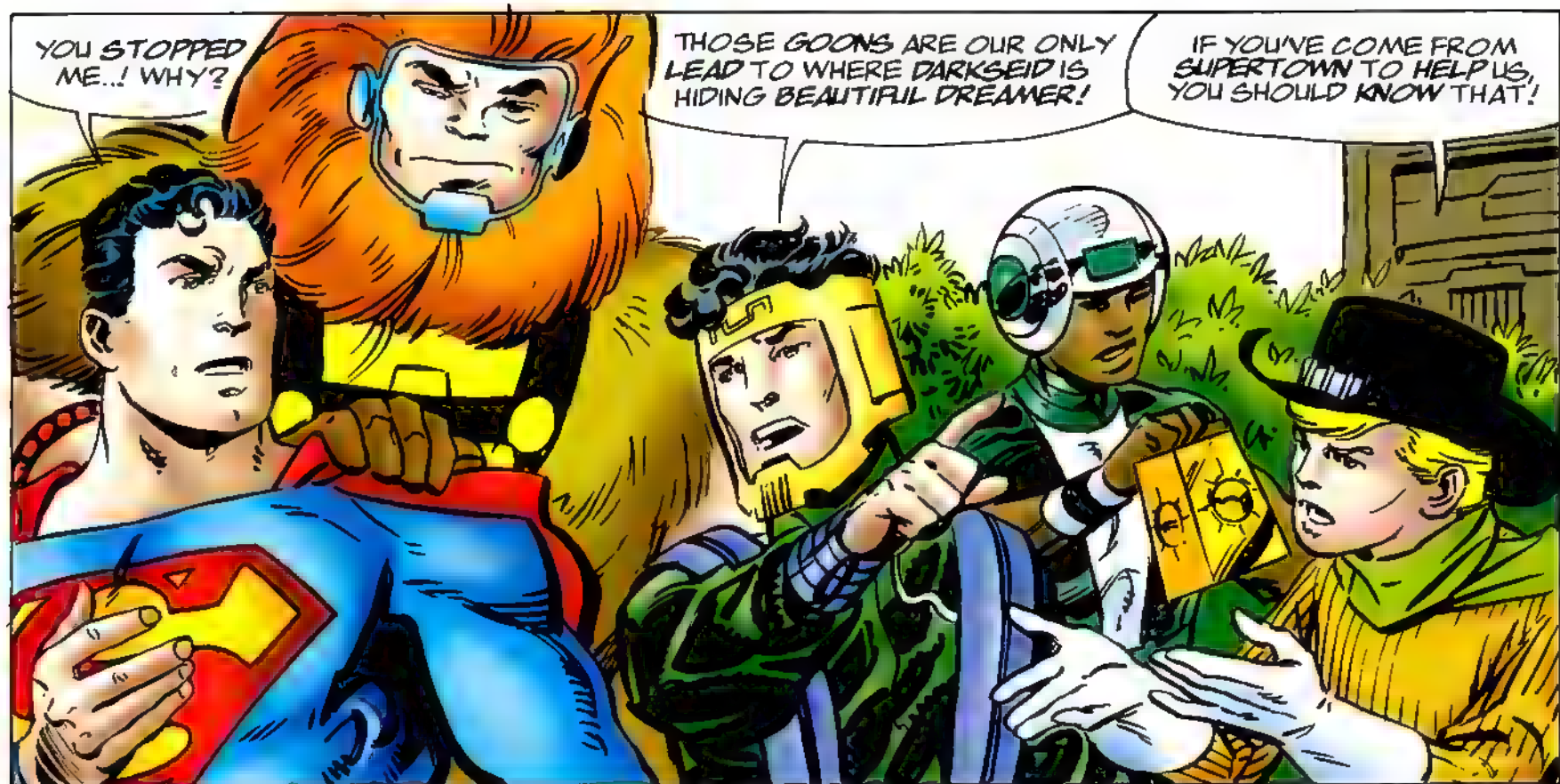
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SMILE...?

"SO THE FOREVER PEOPLE LET BOBBY SHOOT A WHOLE ROLL OF FILM..."





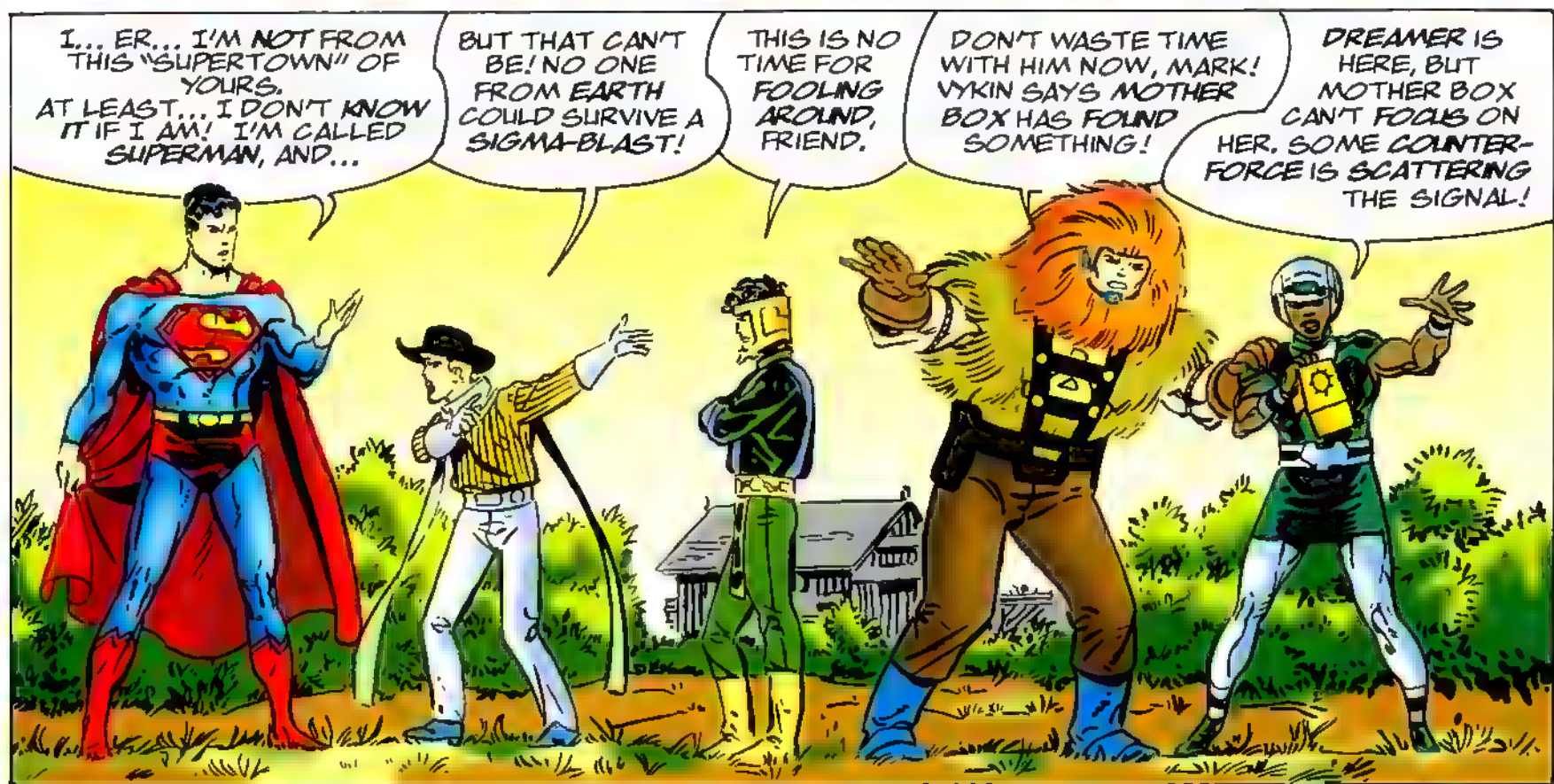




YOU STOPPED ME...! WHY?

THOSE GOONS ARE OUR ONLY LEAD TO WHERE DARKSEID IS HIDING BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!

IF YOU'VE COME FROM SUPERTOWN TO HELP US, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!



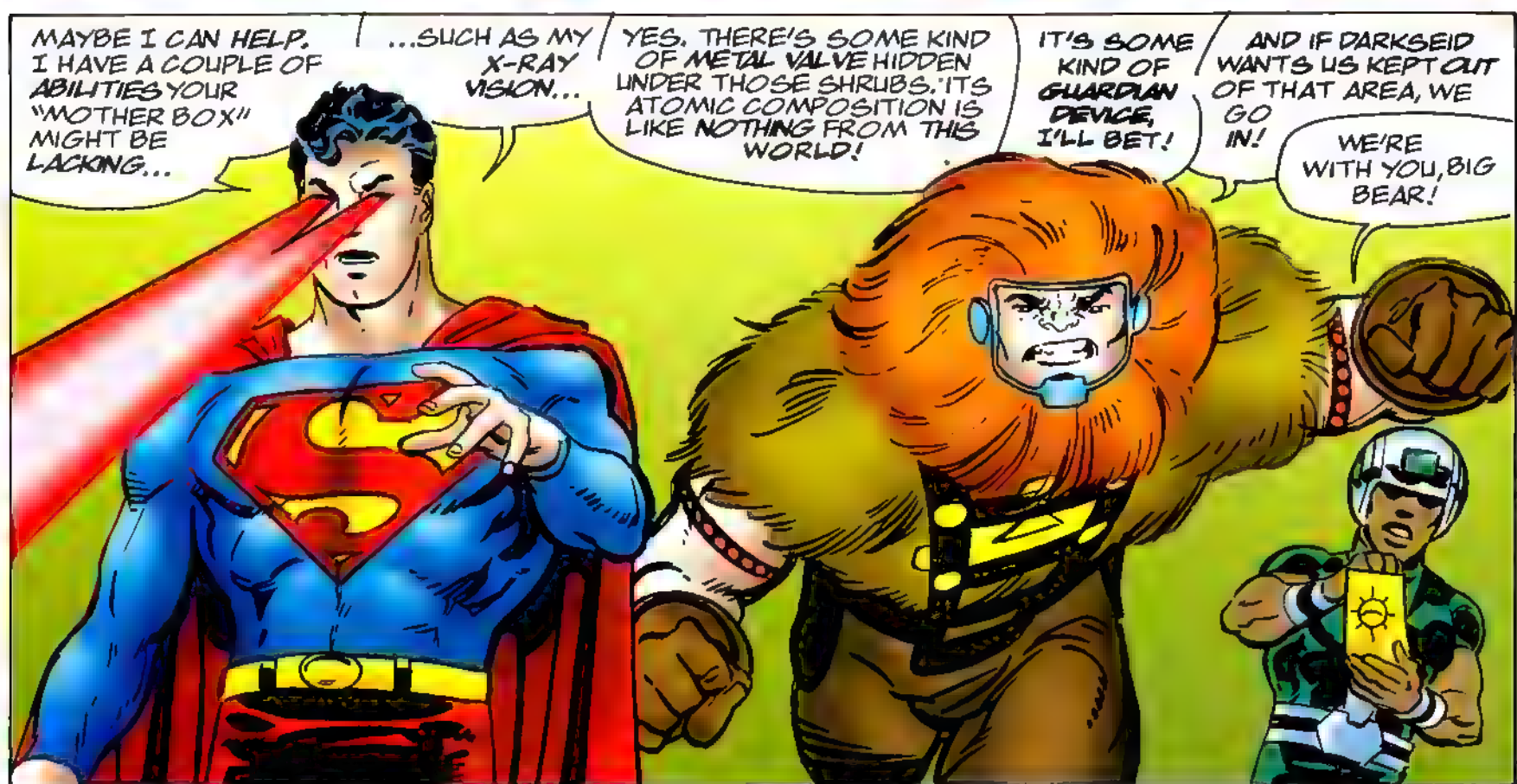
I... ER... I'M NOT FROM THIS "SUPERTOWN" OF YOURS. AT LEAST... I DON'T KNOW IT IF I AM! I'M CALLED SUPERMAN, AND...

BUT THAT CAN'T BE! NO ONE FROM EARTH COULD SURVIVE A SIGMA-BLAST!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR FOOLING AROUND, FRIEND.

DON'T WASTE TIME WITH HIM NOW, MARK! VYKIN SAYS MOTHER BOX HAS FOUND SOMETHING!

DREAMER IS HERE, BUT MOTHER BOX CAN'T FOCUS ON HER. SOME COUNTER-FORCE IS SCATTERING THE SIGNAL!



MAYBE I CAN HELP. I HAVE A COUPLE OF ABILITIES YOUR "MOTHER BOX" MIGHT BE LACKING...

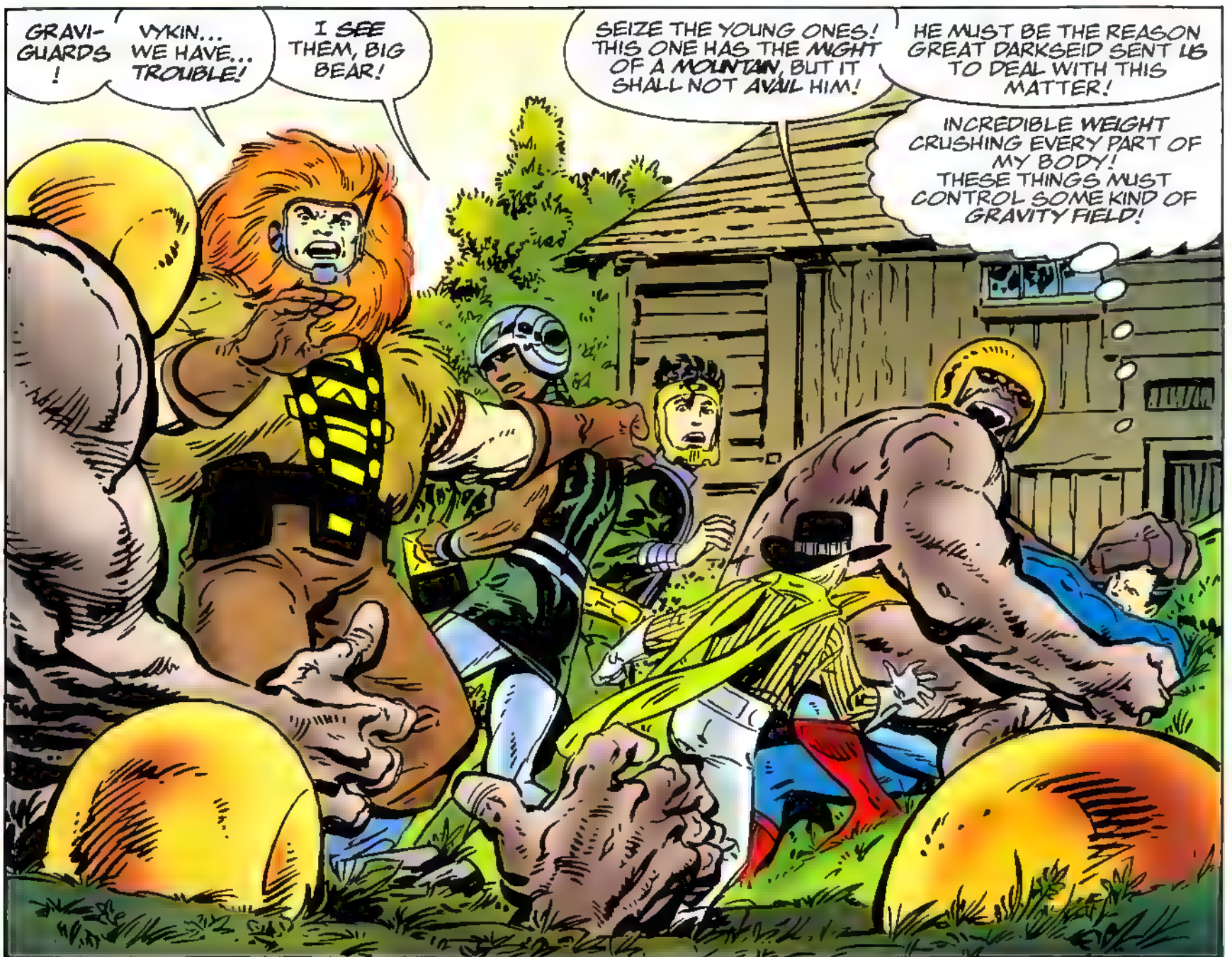
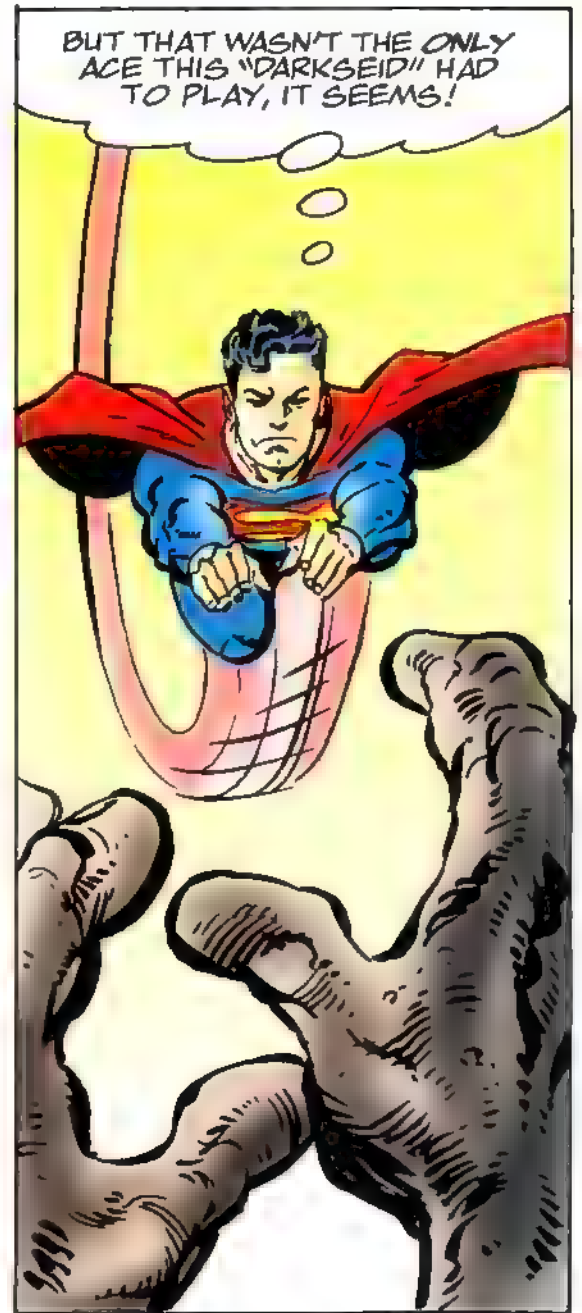
...SUCH AS MY X-RAY VISION...

YES, THERE'S SOME KIND OF METAL VALVE HIDDEN UNDER THOSE SHRUBS. ITS ATOMIC COMPOSITION IS LIKE NOTHING FROM THIS WORLD!

IT'S SOME KIND OF GUARDIAN DEVICE, I'LL BET!

AND IF DARKSEID WANTS US KEPT OUT OF THAT AREA, WE GO IN!

WE'RE WITH YOU, BIG BEAR!



HANG ON, SUPERMAN! THERE'S A WAY TO DEFEAT THESE BEASTS!

ALL WE NEED IS A MOMENT TO RELEASE THE ONE WHO LIVES OUTSIDE THE FINITE!

AND SINCE THE GRAVI-GUARDS MOVE AS IF ENGULFED IN GLUE...

SEND HIM YOUR SIGNAL, MOTHER BOX!

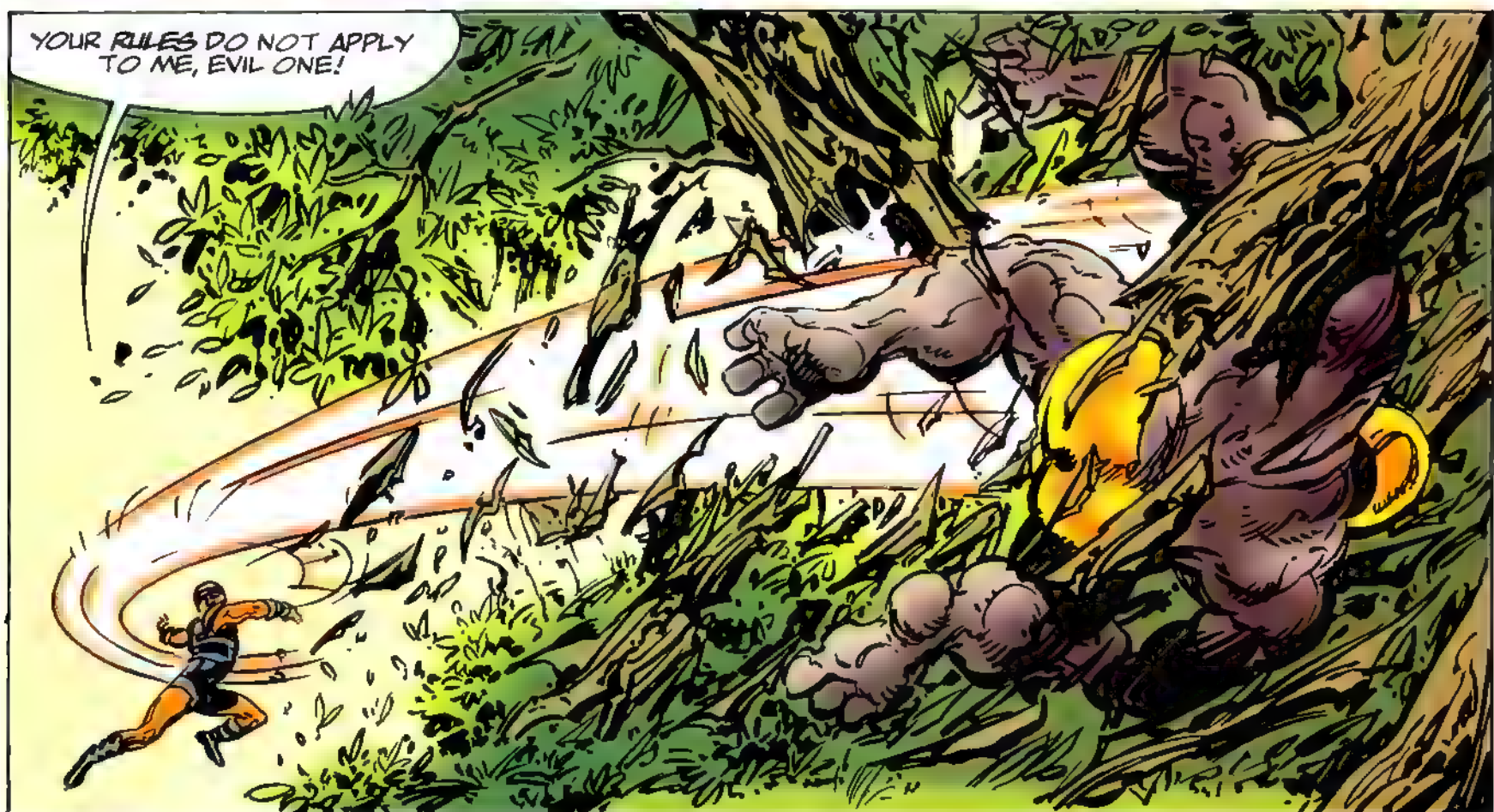
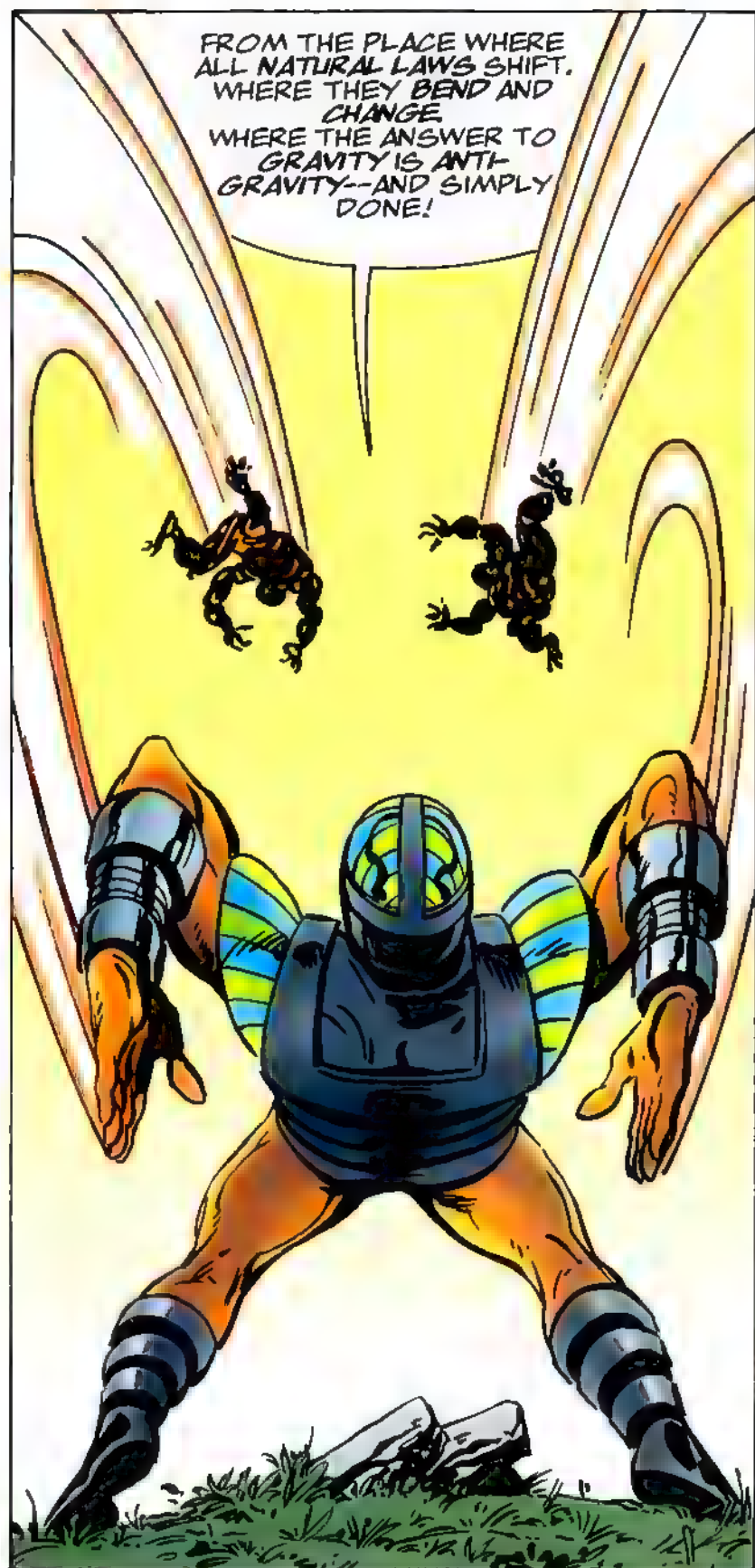
PREPARE FOR THE WORD, MOTHER BOX! LET IT GROW LOUD, UNTIL IT REACHES THE WINDS OF INFINITY!

"MAKE US THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH HE MAY ENTER!"

TARRU!

I HAVE HEARD! I AM HERE! I AM THE INFINITY MAN!

WHERE DID HE COME FROM!





AND JUST WHAT RULES DO APPLY TO YOU, STRANGER?

AND WHERE ARE THE FOREVER PEOPLE?

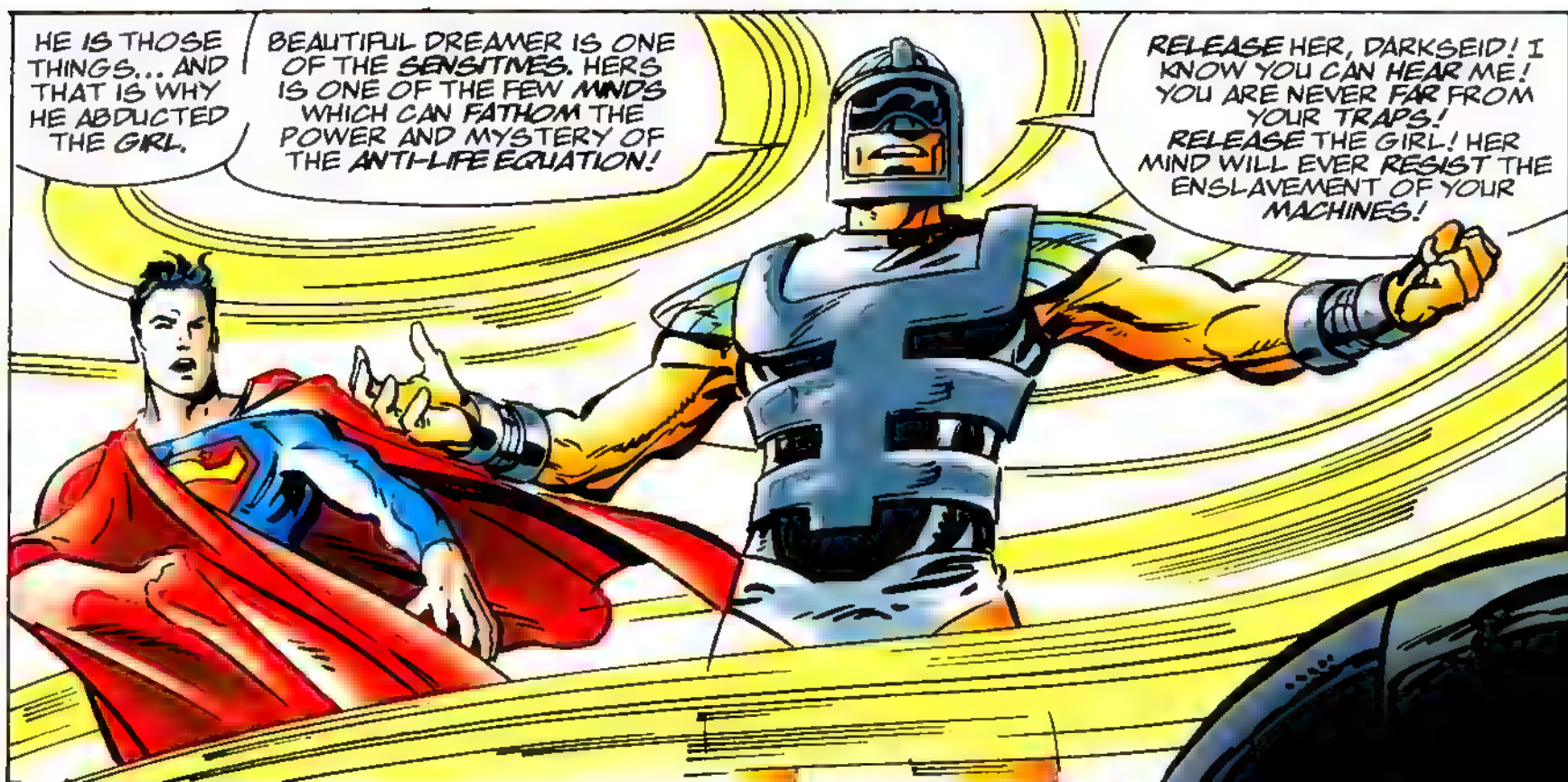
SAFE, FOR THE PRESENT, AS SAFE AS ALL THAT LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT PERIL!



A "GREAT PERIL" CALLED DARK-SEID? INTERESTING...

FIVE YEARS AGO ON AN ISO-LATED PACIFIC ATOLL I EN-COUNTERED A TRIBE OF NATIVES WHO WORSHIP A GOD WHOSE NAME WOULD TRANSLATE ROUGHLY AS "DARK-SIDE."

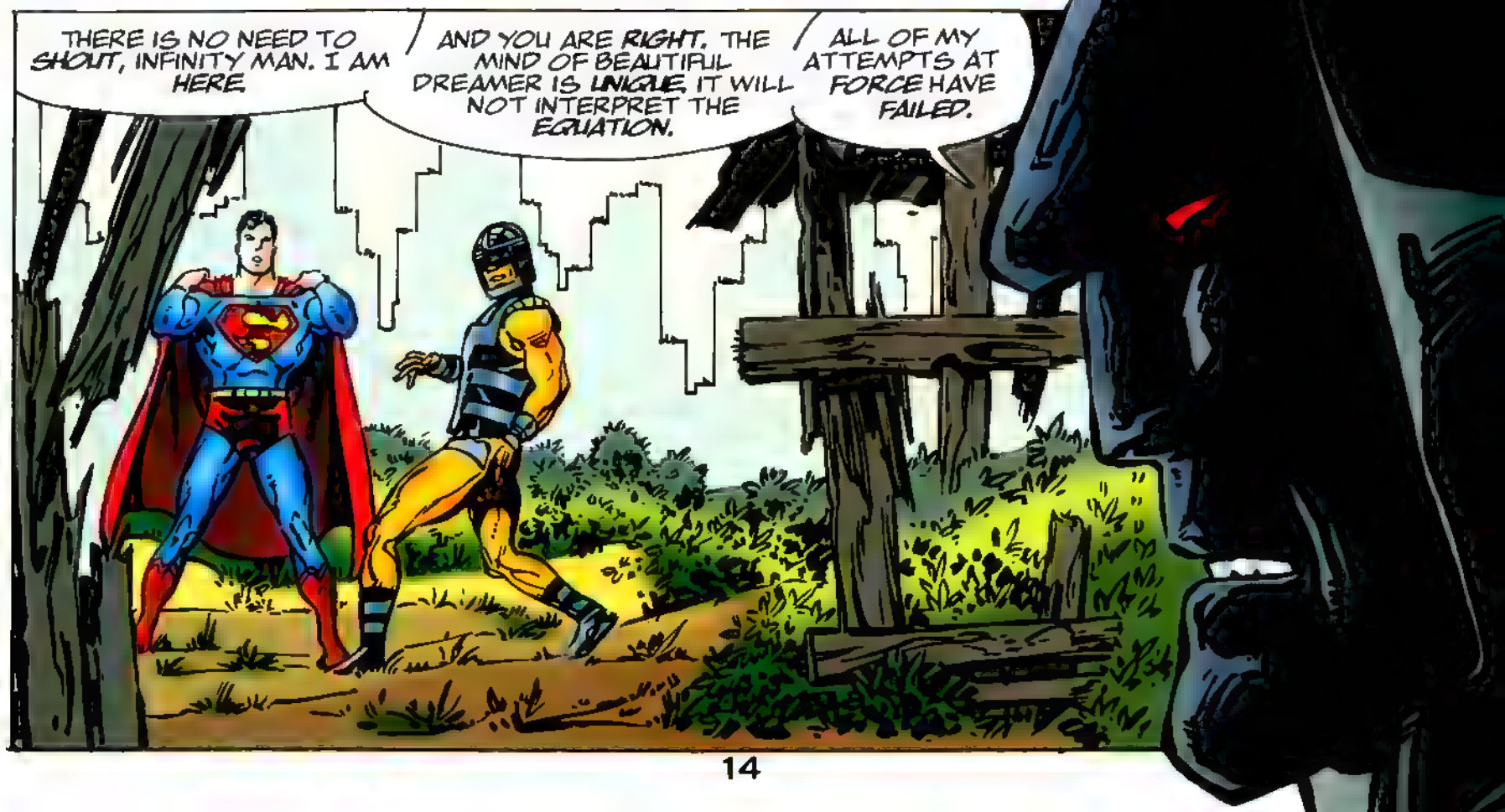
ALL WHO WORSHIP HOLOCAUST AND DEATH WORSHIP DARKSEID, SUPERMAN.



HE IS THOSE THINGS... AND THAT IS WHY HE ABDUCTED THE GIRL.

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER IS ONE OF THE SENSITIVES. HER'S IS ONE OF THE FEW MINDS WHICH CAN FATHOM THE POWER AND MYSTERY OF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!

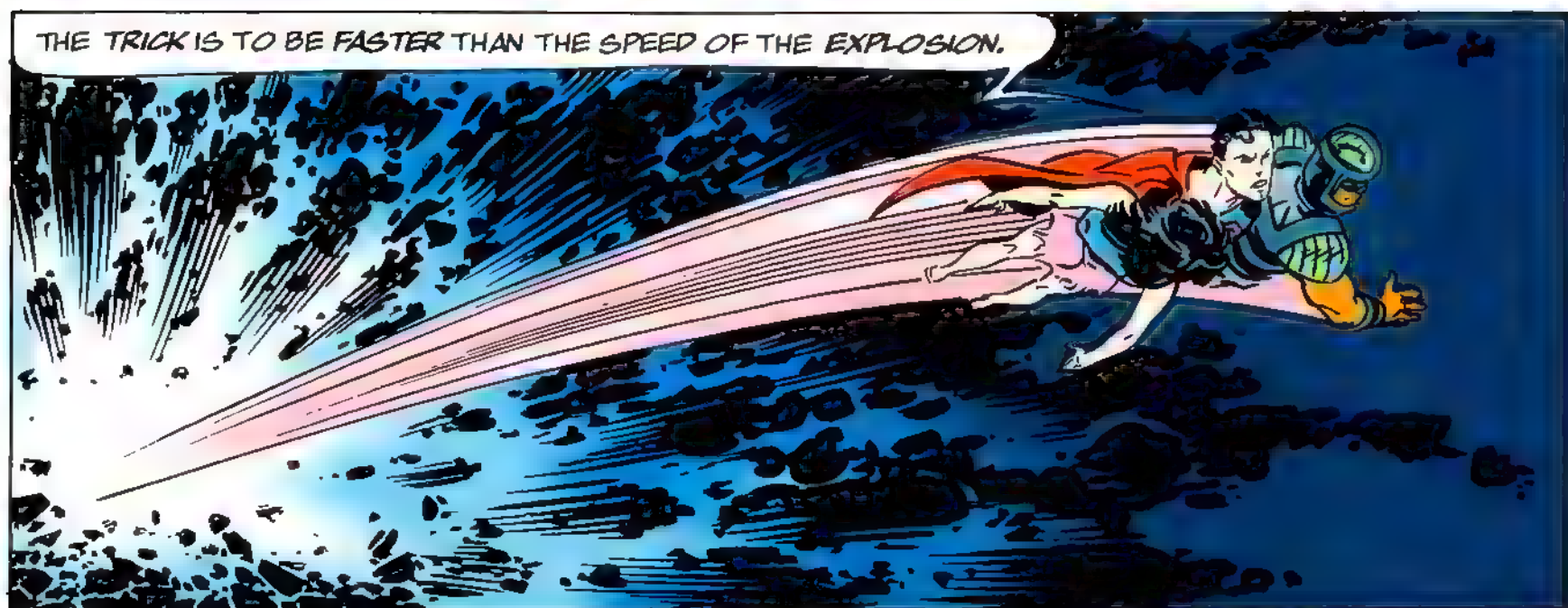
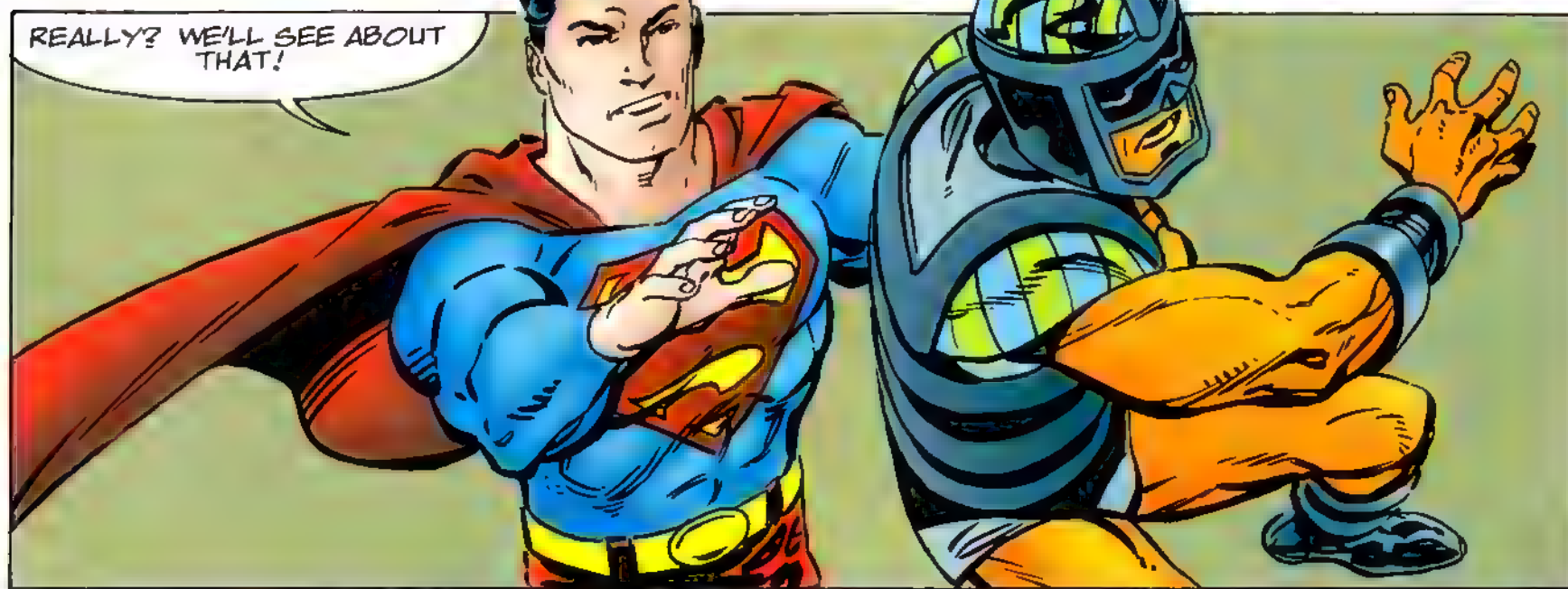
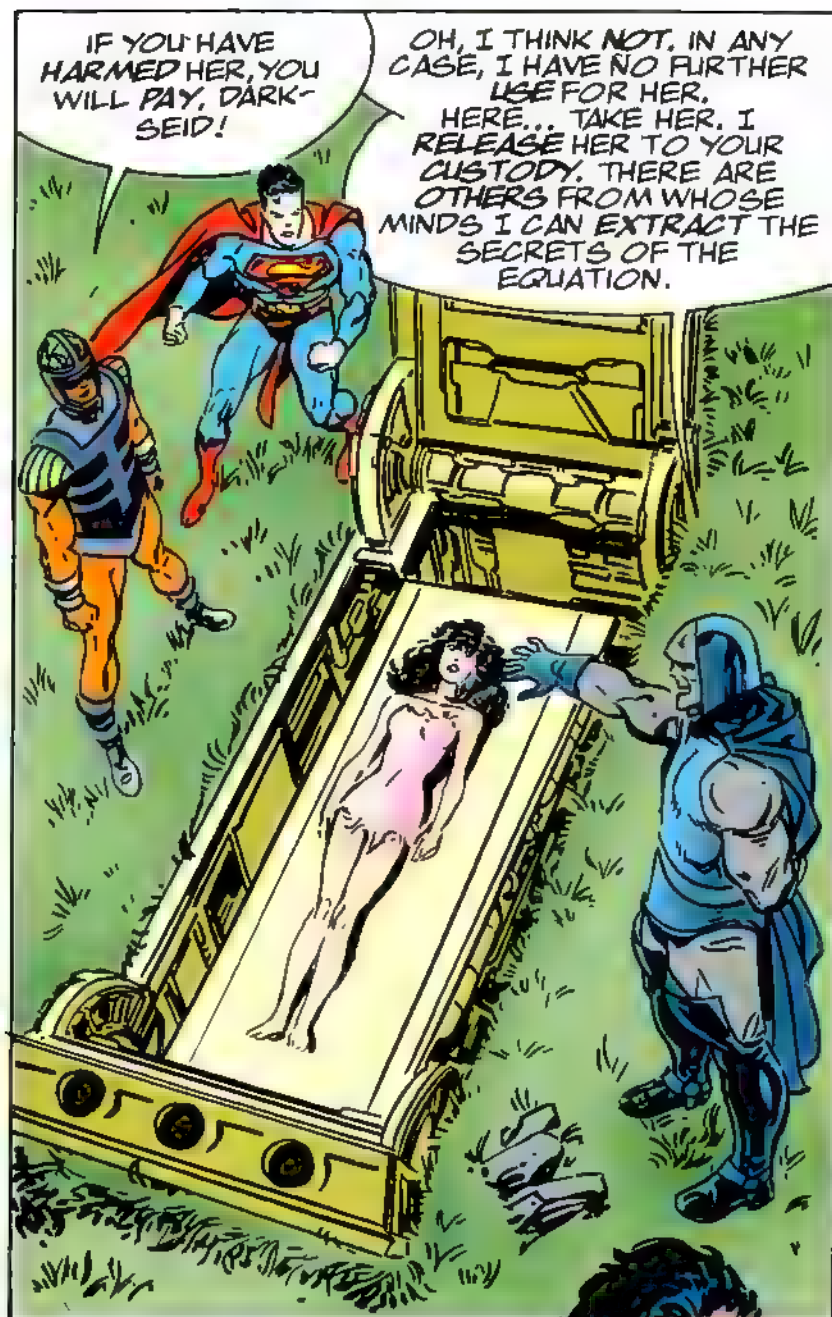
RELEASE HER, DARKSEID! I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! YOU ARE NEVER FAR FROM YOUR TRAPS! RELEASE THE GIRL! HER MIND WILL EVER RESIST THE ENSLAVEMENT OF YOUR MACHINES!

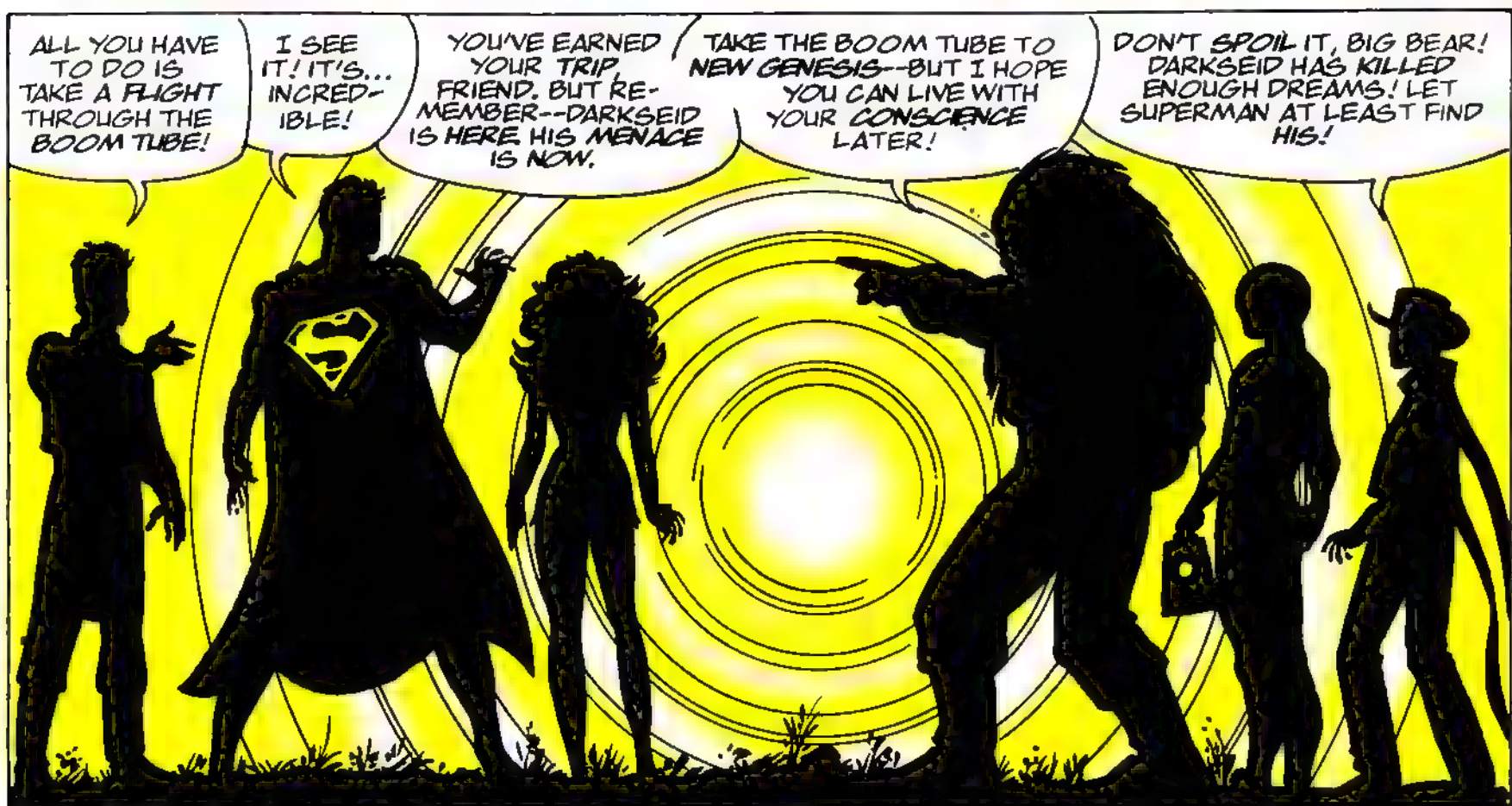


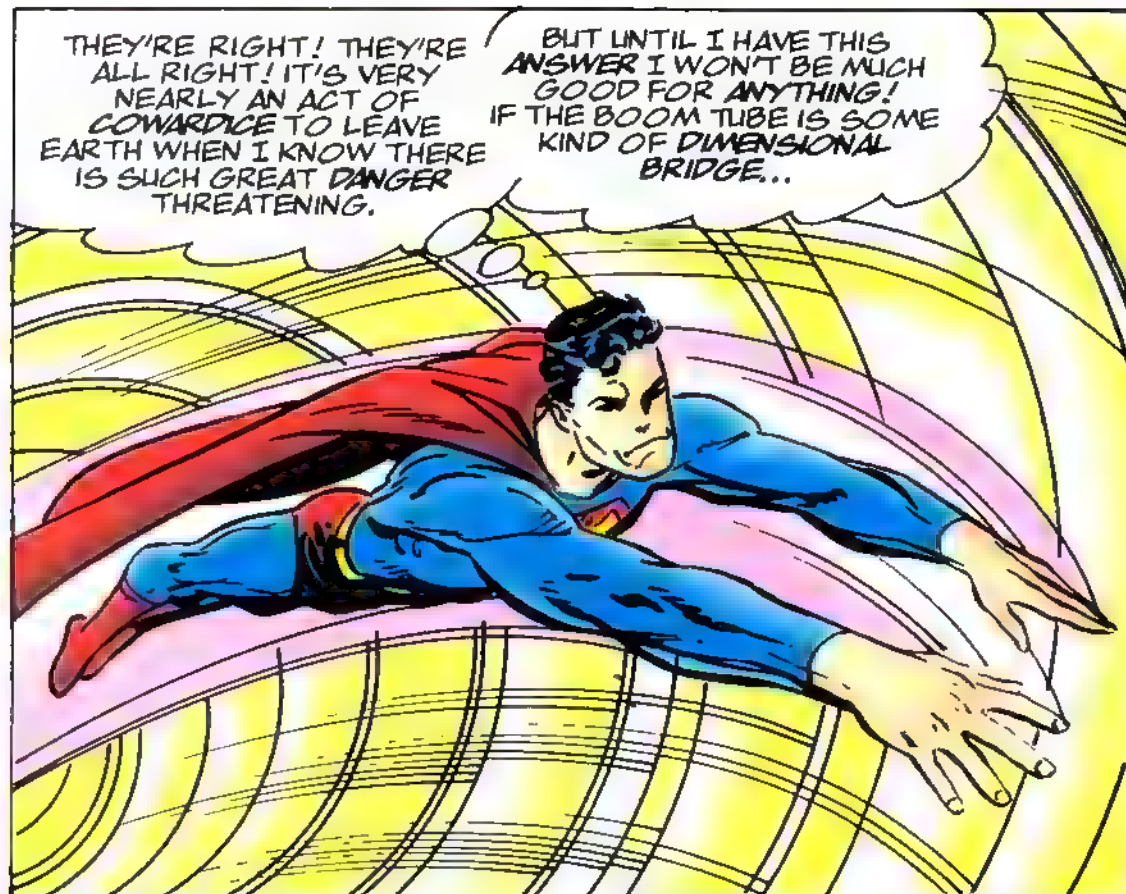
THERE IS NO NEED TO SHOUT, INFINITY MAN. I AM HERE.

AND YOU ARE RIGHT, THE MIND OF BEAUTIFUL DREAMER IS UNIQUE, IT WILL NOT INTERPRET THE EQUATION.

ALL OF MY ATTEMPTS AT FORCE HAVE FAILED.







THEY'RE RIGHT! THEY'RE ALL RIGHT! IT'S VERY NEARLY AN ACT OF COWARDICE TO LEAVE EARTH WHEN I KNOW THERE IS SUCH GREAT DANGER THREATENING.

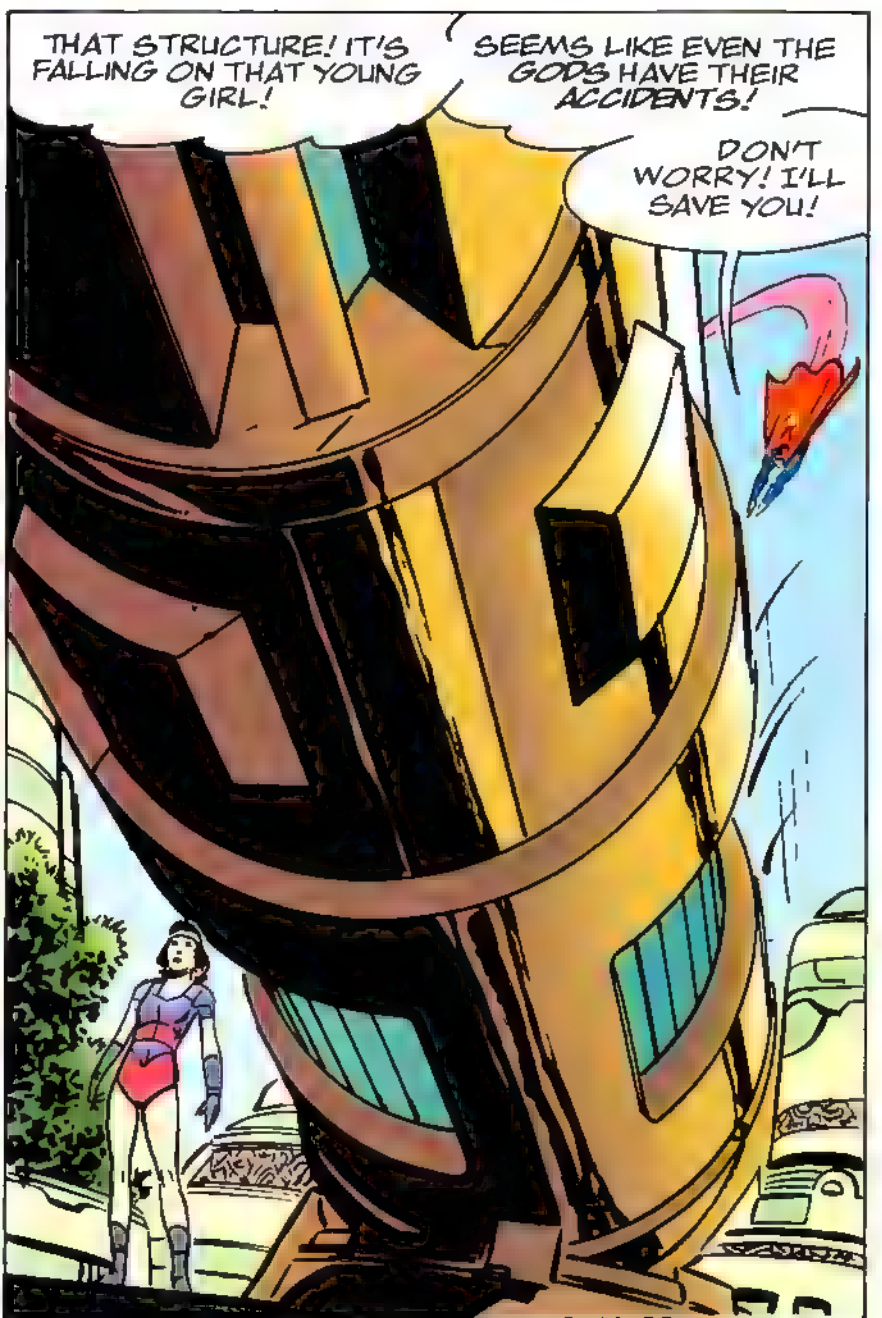
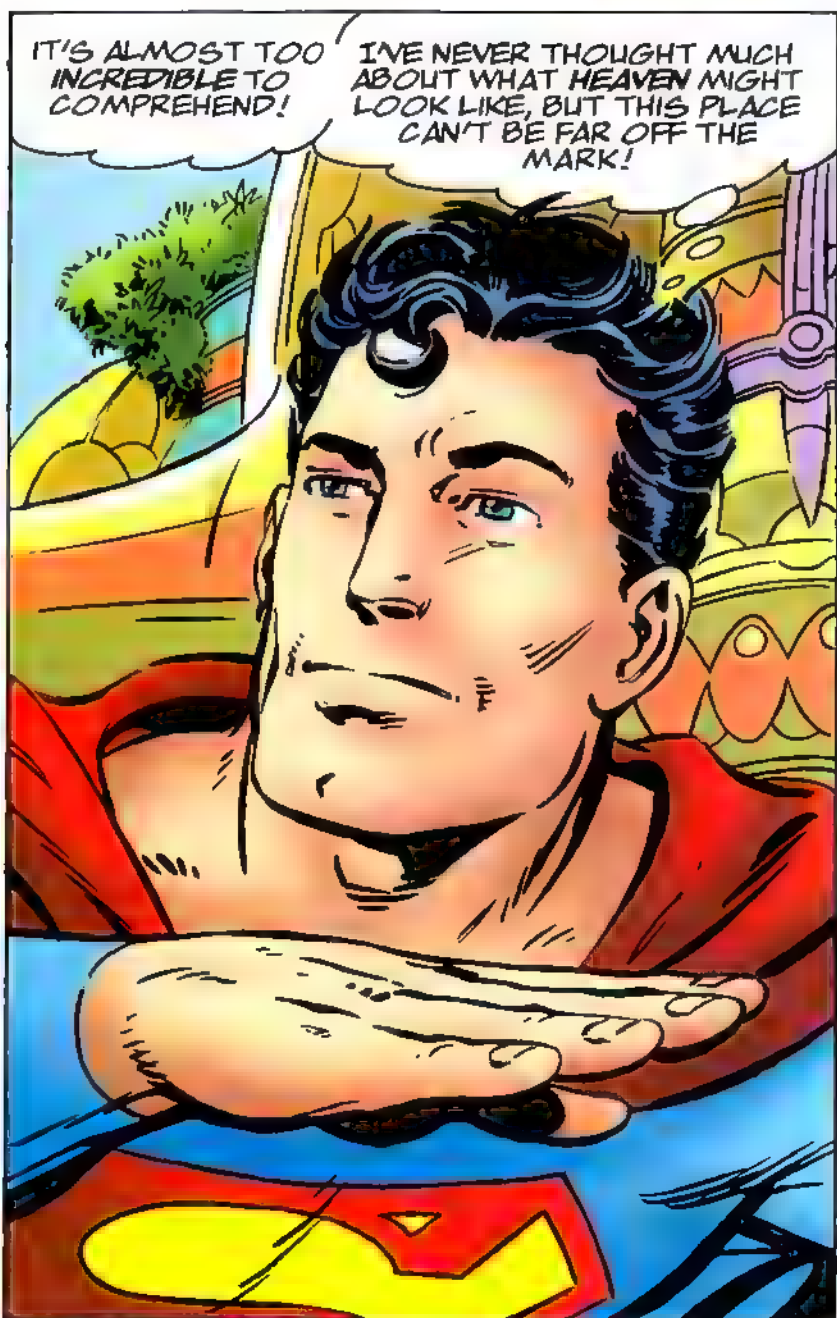
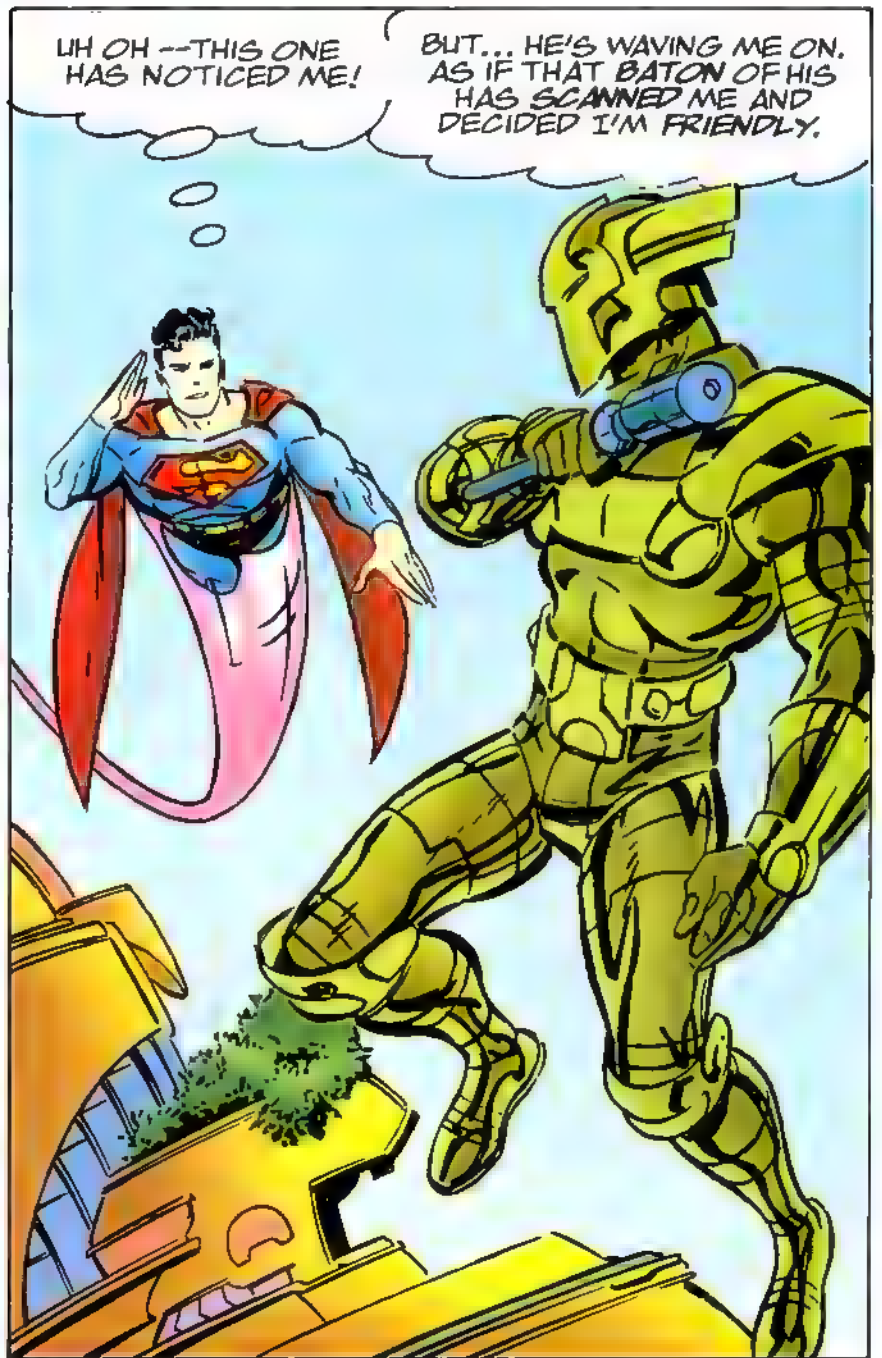
BUT UNTIL I HAVE THIS ANSWER I WON'T BE MUCH GOOD FOR ANYTHING! IF THE BOOM TUBE IS SOME KIND OF DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE...

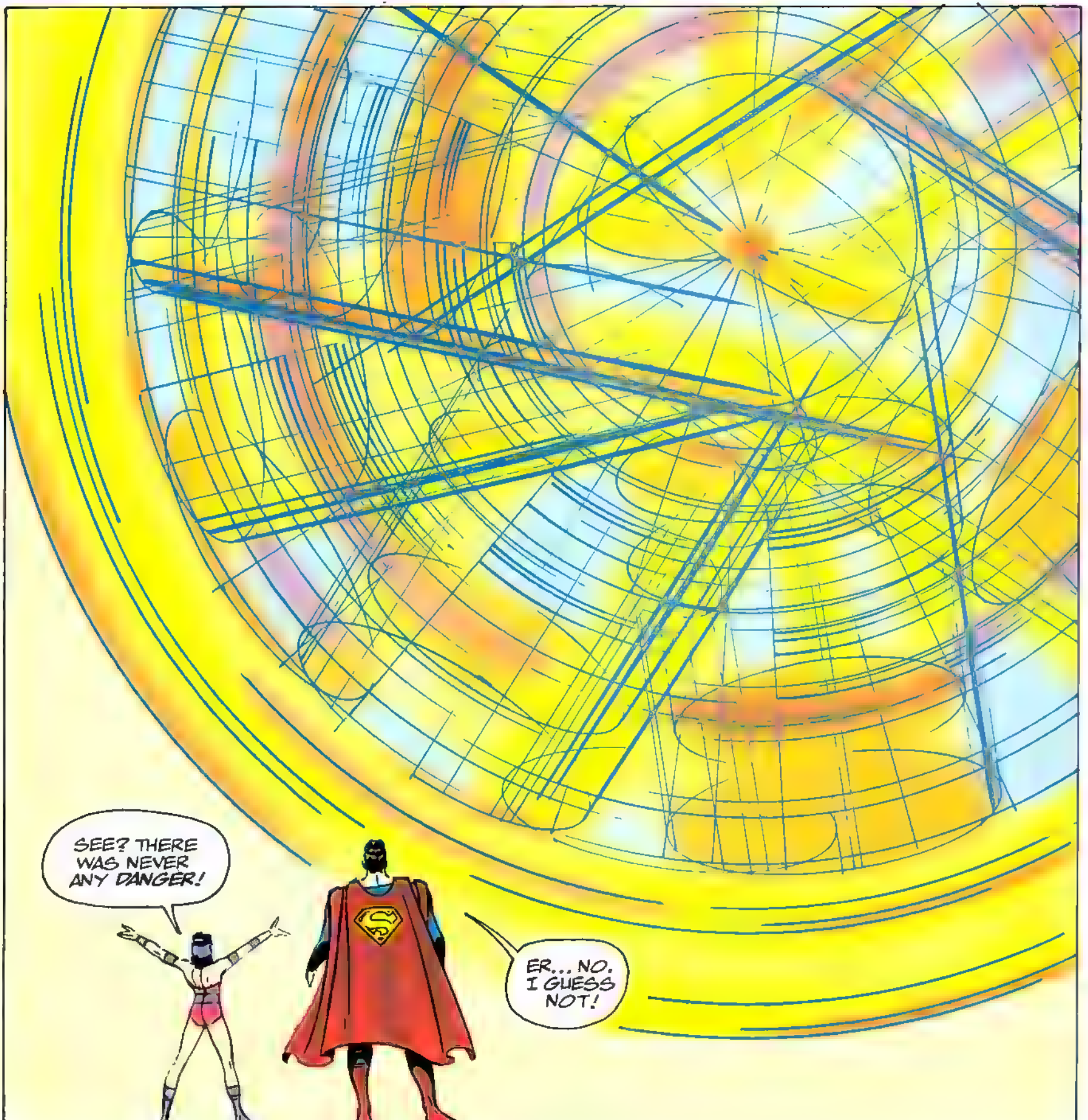
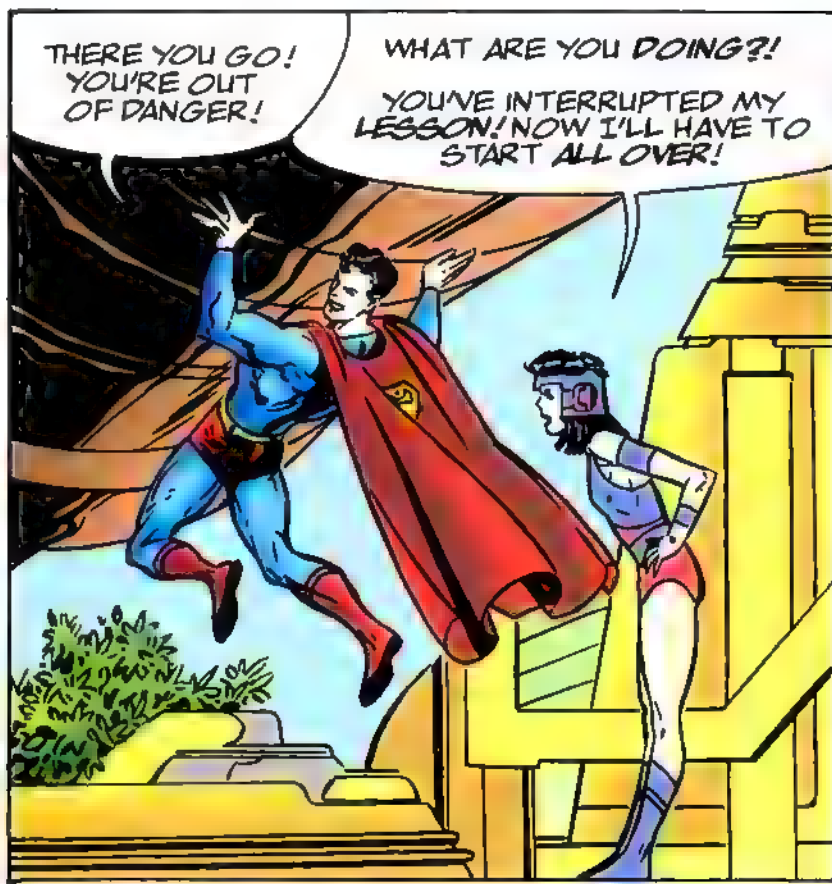


...I HAVE TO CROSS IT RIGHT NOW!!



THERE IT IS! SUPERTOWN! IT IS REAL! AND SO MUCH MORE GLORIOUS THAN THE FLEETING GLIMPSE I HAD IN JIMMY'S PHOTOGRAPHS!

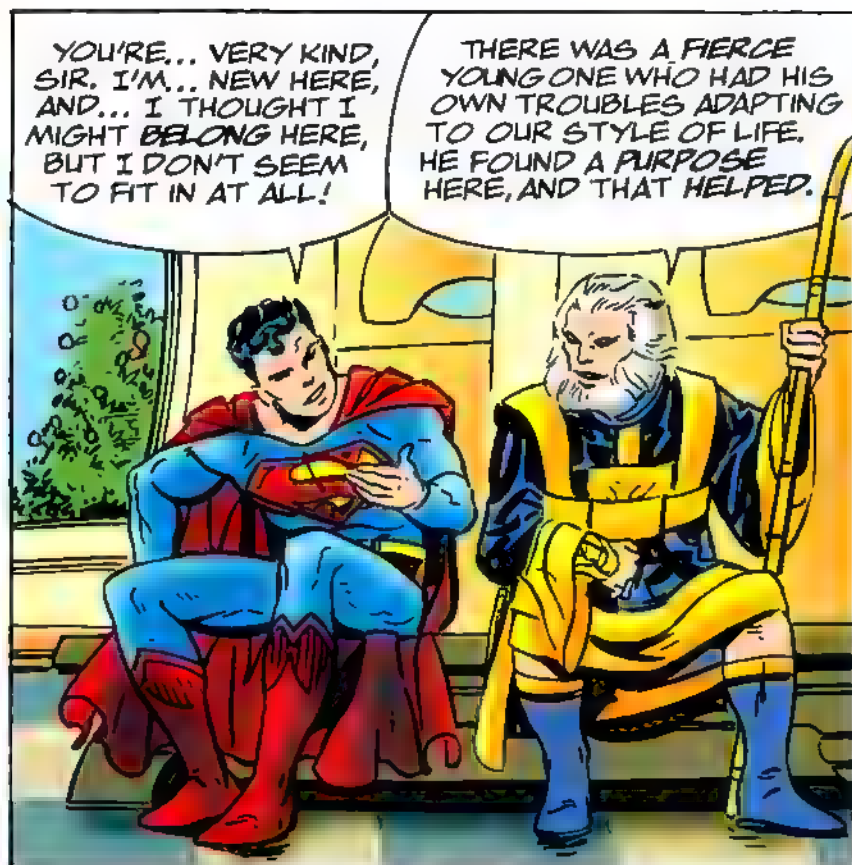






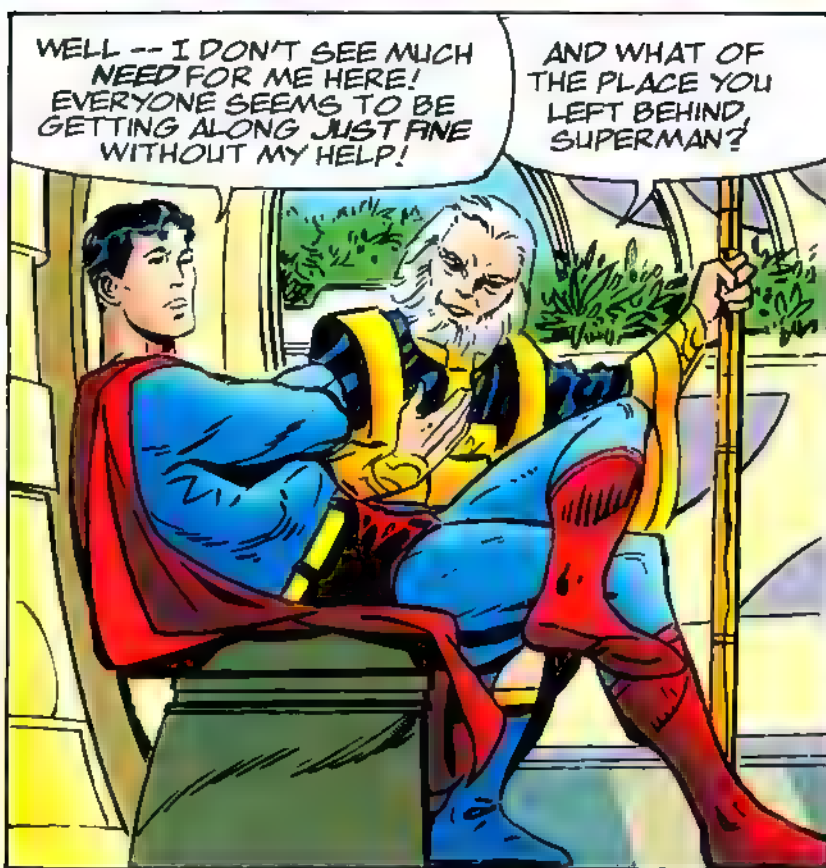
WOW! ON EARTH I MAY BE A BIG DEAL, BUT HERE I'M JUST SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE RULES!

COME, FRIEND! YOU NEED A MOMENT TO THINK!



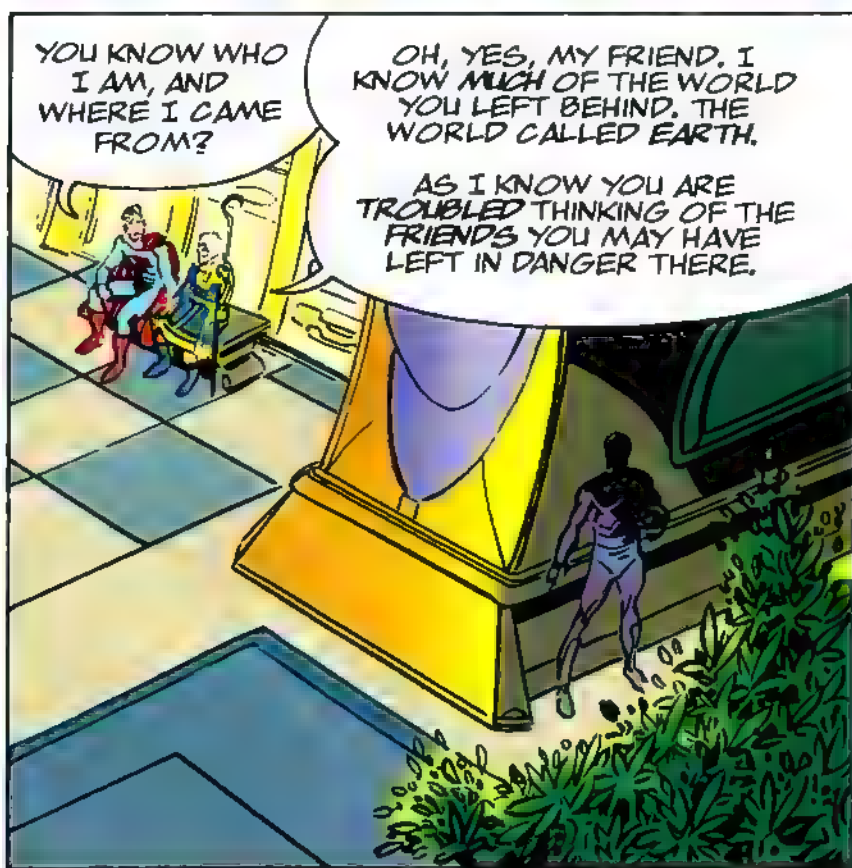
YOU'RE... VERY KIND, SIR. I'M... NEW HERE, AND... I THOUGHT I MIGHT BELONG HERE, BUT I DON'T SEEM TO FIT IN AT ALL!

THERE WAS A FIERCE YOUNG ONE WHO HAD HIS OWN TROUBLES ADAPTING TO OUR STYLE OF LIFE. HE FOUND A PURPOSE HERE, AND THAT HELPED.



WELL -- I DON'T SEE MUCH NEED FOR ME HERE! EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE GETTING ALONG JUST FINE WITHOUT MY HELP!

AND WHAT OF THE PLACE YOU LEFT BEHIND, SUPERMAN?



YOU KNOW WHO I AM, AND WHERE I CAME FROM?

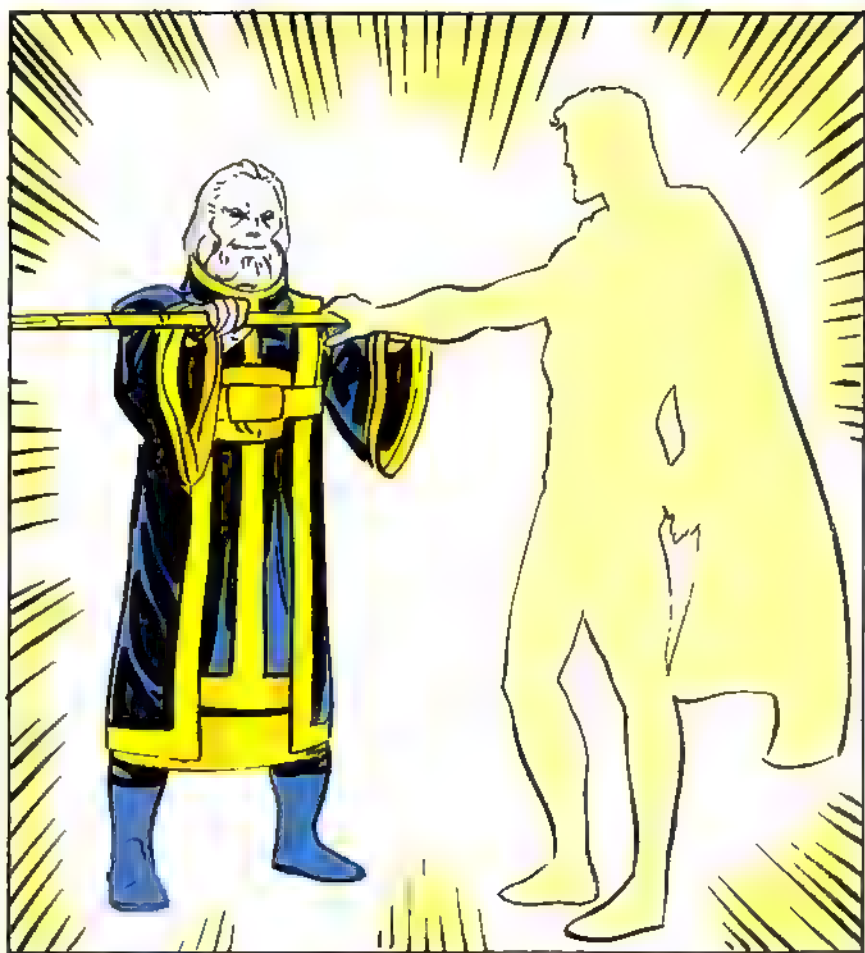
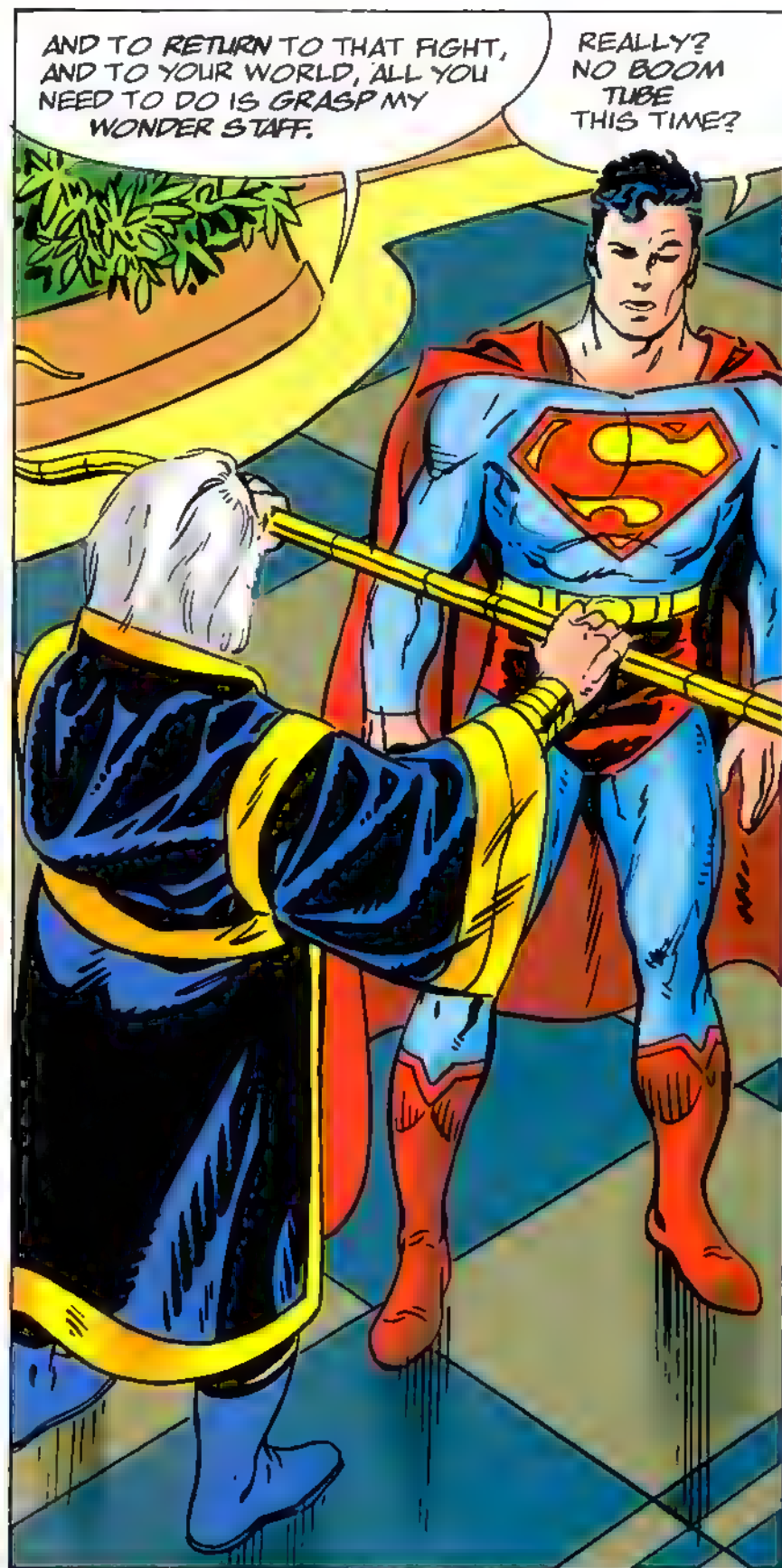
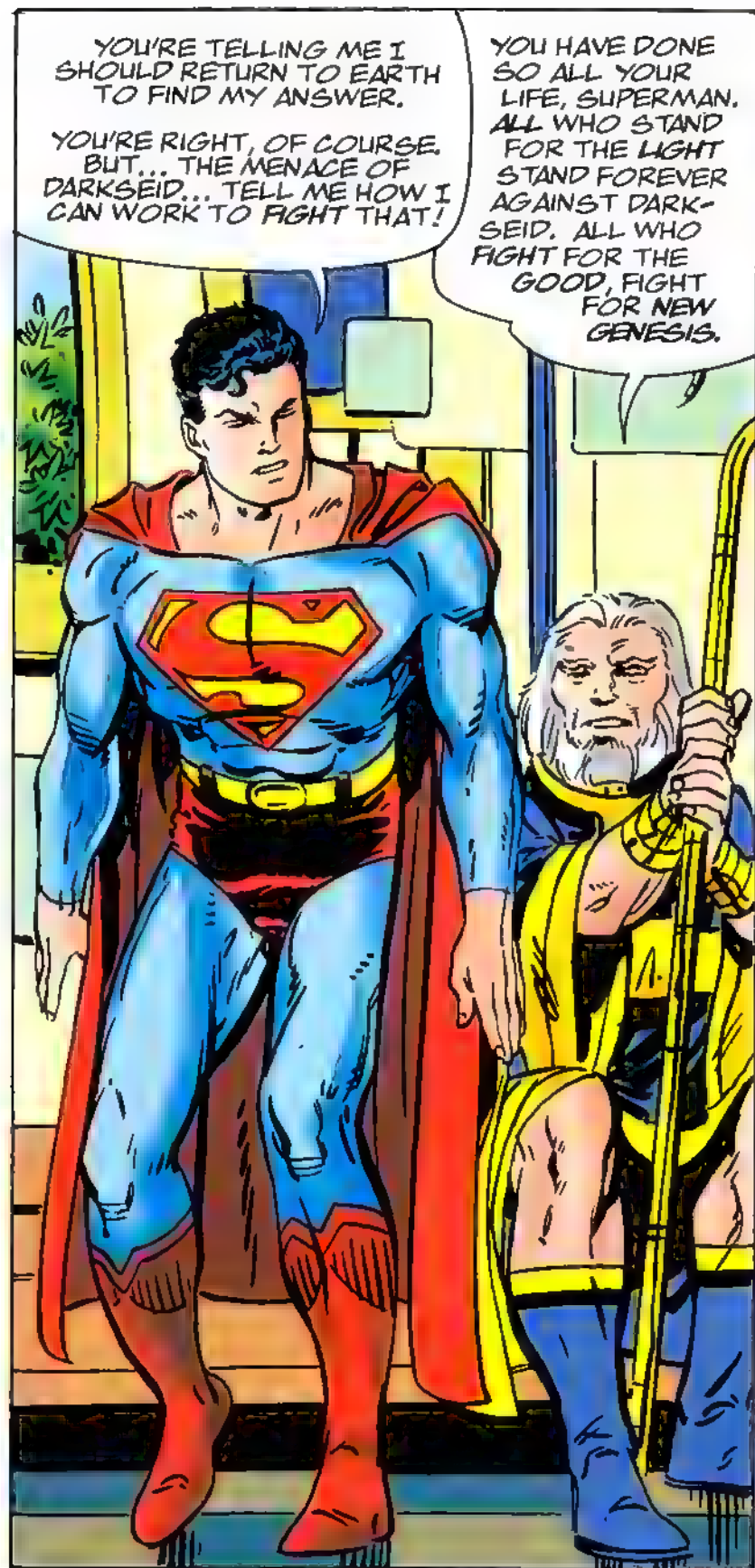
OH, YES, MY FRIEND. I KNOW MUCH OF THE WORLD YOU LEFT BEHIND. THE WORLD CALLED EARTH.

AS I KNOW YOU ARE TROUBLED THINKING OF THE FRIENDS YOU MAY HAVE LEFT IN DANGER THERE.



YES... I CAME SEEKING AN ANSWER, BUT I'VE FOUND ONLY A GREATER MYSTERY. BUT... TELL ME, SIR... IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH OF ME, DO YOU HAVE THE REAL ANSWER I SEEK?

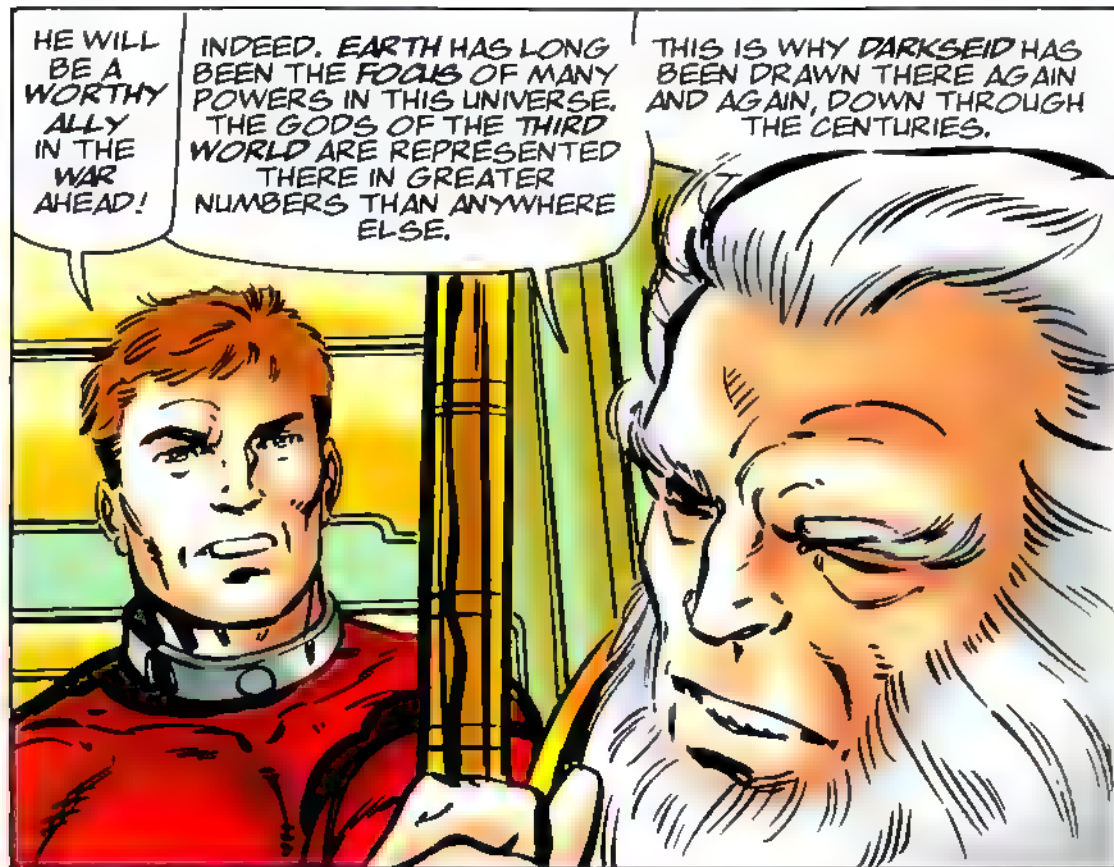
YES... BUT IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO GIVE IT TO YOU, SUPERMAN. YOUR DESTINY IS FOREVER INTERTWINED WITH THE WORLD WHICH HAS ADOPTED YOU. THE ANSWER LIES THERE, NOT ON NEW GENESIS.





IT IS DONE! HE IS RETURNED. YOU MAY EMERGE NOW, MY SON.

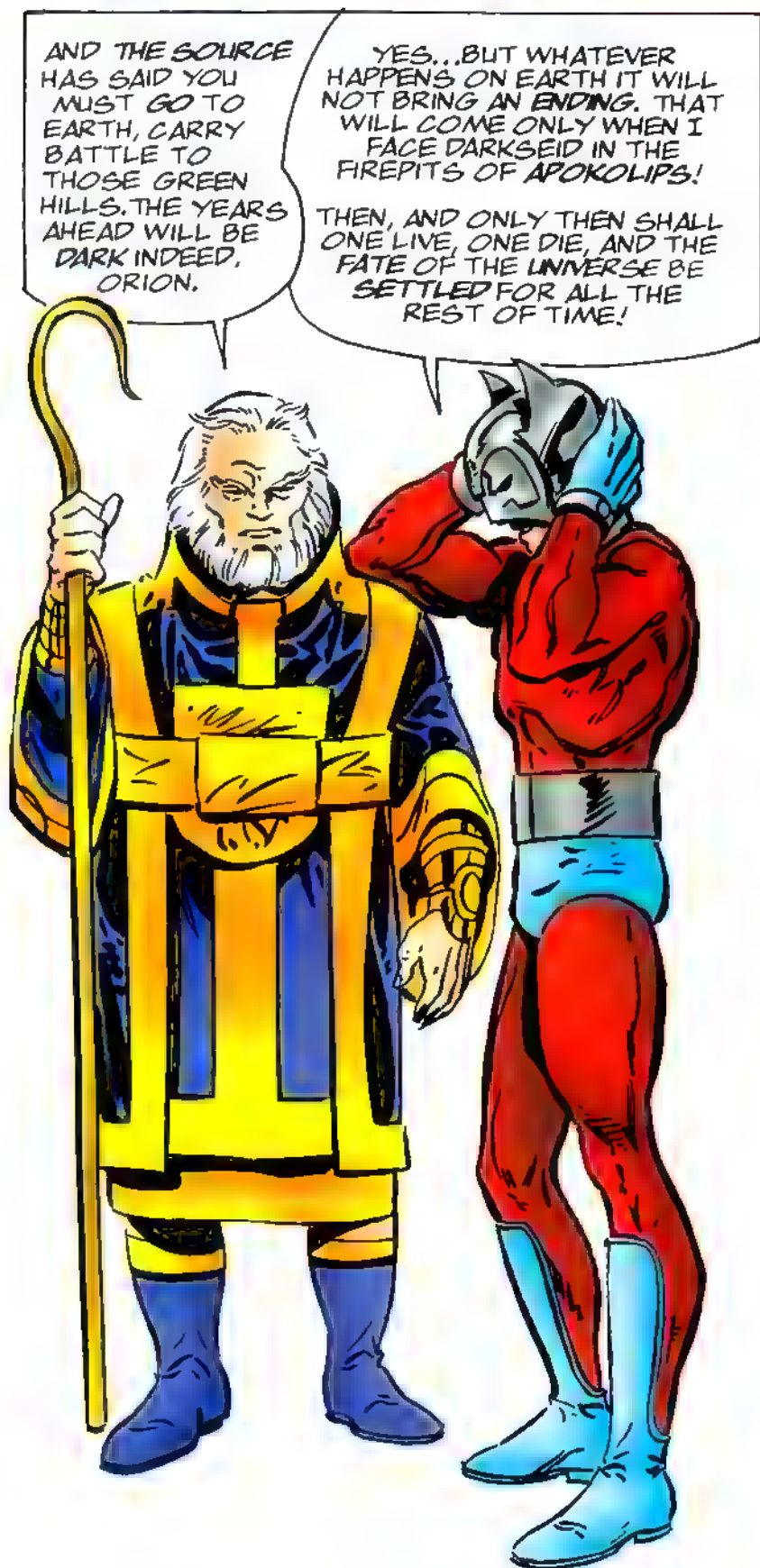
HE IS A GREAT WARRIOR, HIGH-FATHER.



HE WILL BE A WORTHY ALLY IN THE WAR AHEAD!

INDEED. EARTH HAS LONG BEEN THE FOCUS OF MANY POWERS IN THIS UNIVERSE. THE GODS OF THE THIRD WORLD ARE REPRESENTED THERE IN GREATER NUMBERS THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

THIS IS WHY DARKSEID HAS BEEN DRAWN THERE AGAIN AND AGAIN, DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES.



AND THE SOURCE HAS SAID YOU MUST GO TO EARTH, CARRY BATTLE TO THOSE GREEN HILLS. THE YEARS AHEAD WILL BE DARK INDEED, ORION.

YES...BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS ON EARTH IT WILL NOT BRING AN ENDING. THAT WILL COME ONLY WHEN I FACE DARKSEID IN THE FIREPITS OF APOKOLIPS!

THEN, AND ONLY THEN SHALL ONE LIVE, ONE DIE, AND THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE BE SETTLED FOR ALL THE REST OF TIME!



I GO, THEN, FATHER! FIRST TO APOKOLIPS, THEN TO EARTH...

THEN TO WAR! SEND YOUR BLESSINGS WITH ME, THAT THE BATTLES I FIGHT FOR NEW GENESIS MAY BE SWIFT AND SURE...

...AND GLORIOUS!

THERE IS NO GLORY IN WAR, MY SON. YOU, ABOVE ALL, KNOW THIS! BUT TAKE MY BLESSINGS AND ALL THE HOPES OF NEW GENESIS WITH YOU! WHEN COMES AT LAST THE DAY OF LAST BATTLE YOU WILL FACE DARKSEID, AND OUT OF HIS DEFEAT SHALL COME THE HOPE AND POWER OF A BOLD FIFTH WORLD!

THIS IS THE PROMISE OF THE SOURCE!

AND SO, FAREWELL! THANKS FOR TWO GREAT YEARS!

ORION
MAY 16 '98

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 005 The Gods Themselves

"U.L.T.R.A. Humanite, Part 1: Madness and Science", first appeared in Legends of the DC Universe issue #1, released December, 1997
James Robinson (writer), Val Semeiks (penciller), Paul Neary (inker), Val Semeiks (inker)

"U.L.T.R.A. Humanite, Part II: Mad Science", first appeared in Legends of the DC Universe issue #2, released January, 1998
James Robinson (writer), Val Semeiks (penciller), Paul Neary (inker), Val Semeiks (inker)

"U.L.T.R.A. Humanite, Part III: Mad Scientist", first appeared in Legends of the DC Universe issue #3, released February, 1998
James Robinson (writer), Val Semeiks (writer), Digital Chameleon (penciller), Val Semeiks (penciller), Digital Chameleon (inker), Paul Neary (inker), Val Semeiks (inker)

"Different Worlds", first appeared in Batman and Superman: World's Finest issue #1, released February, 1999
Karl Kesel (writer), Dave Taylor (penciller), Robert Campanella (inker)

"The Mirror, Crack'd...", first appeared in The Man of Steel issue #5, released September 11, 1986
John Byrne (writer), John Byrne (penciller), Dick Giordano (inker)

"The Gods Themselves", first appeared in Jack Kirby's Fourth World issue #20, released August, 1998
John Byrne (writer), John Byrne (penciller), John Byrne (inker)



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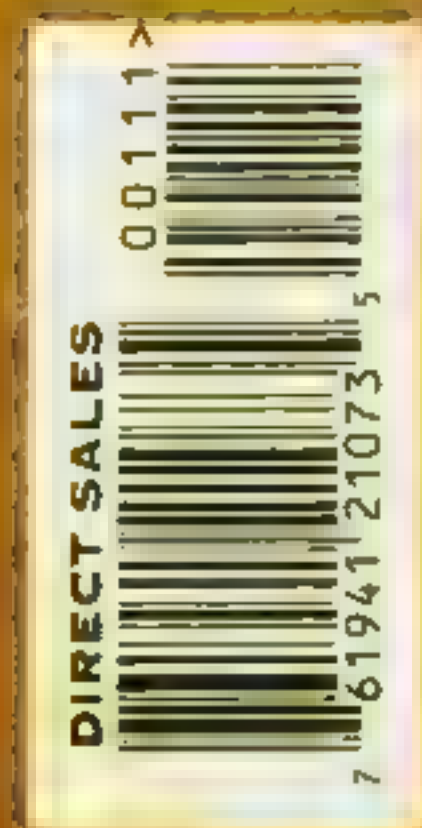
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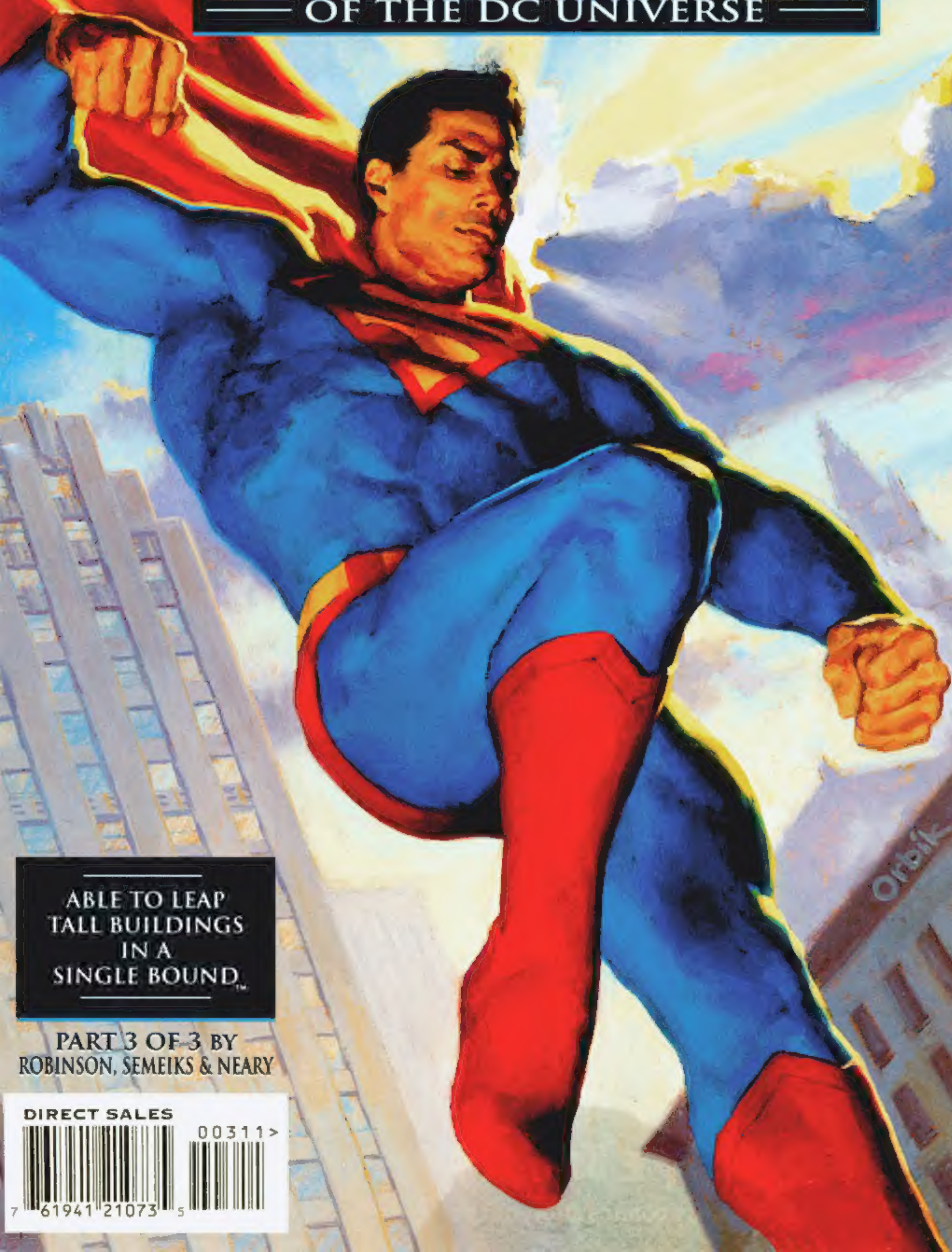
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